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Personal Records

Grand Army

of the

Republic



Its History and Its Heroes

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PERSONAL RECORDS



JOHN C. ROBINSON

THE
GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC

(DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK)

PERSONAL RECORDS

BY

COMRADE HENRY P. PHELPS

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PREFACE

IT can not be too distinctly understood that the preservation in this form, of individual records of comrades of the Grand Army of the Republic, stands for something more than merely the gratification of personal pride, no matter how justifiable, and natural, and honorable that personal pride may be.

Just as the Grand Army itself seeks not merely to conserve the interests of its members, but through them to maintain, and encourage and illustrate for all the world, the highest and noblest standard of American Citizenship, these records, while they can not otherwise than honor the soldiers of the republic, have a still grander mission in that they are a precious legacy, teaching to future generations, through the examples of those thus commemorated, the great principles of loyalty and patriotism which should fire the heart and inspire the soul of every man worthy to live under the flag made sacred by the blood of countless thousands who have died in its defense.

Better than anything yet published do they represent the material of which the Union armies were composed, not only by what these men accomplished as wearers of the blue, but by what they have since become as citizens. In many an instance the lad of 19, who without influence or experience, faithfully carried a musket through all his term of service, has since shown by the place he has won for himself as a civilian, the stuff that was in him all the while, but which, in the repression of army life, was never demonstrated, or perhaps, suspected. It is for this reason, and also, once and forever to refute the vile aspersions of calumniators of our glorious organization, that something more than the army records enters into most of these sketches, affording as they do, with the accompanying portraits, the most irrefragible demonstration of the high standing and exalted character of many of its most prominent members.

And while it is too much to hope, perhaps, that in the delicate matter of encomium and prominence, exact proportionate justice has been done, it should be said in fairness to all concerned, that while in nearly every instance, the manuscript has been submitted to the one best qualified to verify the statement of fact contained therein, the editor alone is responsible for the form which the statement is made to take. On the other hand, however, where less space has been devoted to a record than seems adequate, the reason is usually to be found in the modesty of the individual comrade, himself,—certainly

not in any desire of the compiler to lessen the proper proportions of the sketch in question.

The rule has been observed that any man who is a member of the Grand Army is eligible to representation in these pages, no matter what his rank, or term, or what the nature of his service. Some of the best men in the organization at first objected that their war records were not of sufficient importance to justify an appearance here. The answer was simple: Every volunteer who enlisted, no matter whether it was for thirty days, or three years, placed his life at the disposal of his country. Thereafter it was simply with him a matter of obeying orders. These might lead him to

"The imminent deadly breach,"

or to the shelter of the flag that floats above a hospital—to the bloody field of Gettysburgh, or to do provost duty in the city of New York. Every soldier could not be always at the front. The actual fighting force of an army is rarely half its numerical strength. But like Milton's angels,

"They also serve who wait."

It is assumed that a member of the Grand Army of the Republic did such duty as he was called upon to do, and what that duty was, whether perilous or otherwise, his sketch makes manifest. If it was such as brought him honorable scars, or promotion on the field of battle, no one will wish to deprive him of his glory; but men just as brave as he, went through the war unscathed, and without shoulder-strap or chevron—men just as loyal, just as true, languished with disease in hospital, laid down their lives, and died without a glimpse of gray, or smell of powder.

There is no rank in the Grand Army, and no rule of precedence has been observed in the arrangement of these sketches. With a few exceptions, they have been printed practically in the order in which the data was received. Aside from their personal bearing they include many interesting incidents of army life coming under the observation of the narrators, and which have been hitherto unpublished.

H. P. P.



PERSONAL RECORDS

JOHN C. ROBINSON. Among the 40,000 members of the Grand Army of the Republic who constitute the Department of New York, there is none who more fully has the respect, the esteem and the sympathy of his comrades than has the hero of three wars and thirty years of army service, now sitting under the shadow of a great affliction, in his home and birthplace, the beautiful city of Binghamton.

Nearly fourscore years have passed since John Cleveland Robinson first saw the light of day which comes no longer to his sightless eyes. He was born April 10, 1817, of New England parentage. His father was the first judge of Broome county, and was also postmaster of Binghamton under Andrew Jackson.

After studying in the schools of his native town, and in the near-by academy at Oxford, young Robinson received an appointment as cadet at West Point in 1835, and although leaving a year before graduation to study law, in October, 1839, was commissioned second lieutenant in the 5th U. S. Infantry, and was stationed at Sackett's Harbor and Green Bay, Wis. He joined the Army of Occupation in Texas, at Corpus Christi, as regimental and brigade quartermaster; was at Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma, served with distinction at Monterey, and participated in the concluding operations of the Mexican war, being promoted meantime to first lieutenant.

In August, 1850, he was further promoted to captain, and in 1853-4 was engaged against the Indians in Texas, and in 1856 he led expeditions against the Seminoles in the Everglades and Big Cypress swamp of Florida. In 1857-8 he took part in the Utah expedition which the action of the Mormons made necessary.

At the beginning of the civil war Captain Robinson happened to be in command at Fort McHenry, having under him only 100 men at

the momentous time when the Massachusetts Sixth were attacked on their way through Baltimore, and it was part of the same rebel plan to capture the fort. The arrival of a transport gave rise to the rumor, assiduously cultivated by the commander, that a full regiment had been sent on to strengthen the garrison, and the ruse prevented an attack that under the circumstances might have been successful.

Captain Robinson was subsequently sent on recruiting and mustering service to Ohio and Michigan, and in September was appointed colonel of the First Michigan Volunteers. In February, 1862, he was promoted to major in the United States army; was commissioned brigadier-general of volunteers the following April, and commanded a brigade at Newport News; was transferred to the Army of the Potomac, and placed in command of the First brigade of General Phil Kearney's division; took part in the seven days' battle before Richmond, and commanded a division at Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville and Gettysburg, where he earned the brevet of lieutenant-colonel, U. S. A., and at Mine Run and in the battle of the Wilderness performed services for which he received the brevet of colonel.

At Spottsylvania Court House, while leading a charge on the enemy's breastworks, he was wounded by a bullet in the left knee which led to amputation of the leg at the thigh a week later. This, of course, unfitted him for field service. He was brevetted major-general of volunteers in 1864, and brigadier and major-general U. S. A. in March, 1865, and was awarded a congressional medal of honor. He served as military commander and commissioner of the Freedman's bureau in North Carolina in 1866; was mustered out of volunteer service September 1, of that year; commanded the

department of the South in 1867; and the department of the lakes in 1867-8. On May 6, 1869, was retired with full rank of major-general, U. S. A.

Still his honors were not quite complete. In 1872 he was elected lieutenant-governor of the state of New York, on the republican ticket headed by General Dix for governor. He was the third department commander of the department of New York, and in 1877-8 was the commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic. In 1887 he was chosen president of the Society of the Army of the Potomac.

and later on in the Red River campaign. They were then sent to the Shenandoah Valley (July, 1864), and were with Sheridan at Opequan and Cedar Creek. They remained in the valley till the close of the war, and were then sent to Georgia. Sergeant Saxton took part in all these campaigns, but was never wounded.

He joined the Grand Army soon after it was organized; was commander of Post 56 and of Post 173. In 1892 was a member of the Department Council of Administration, and in 1894 was elected delegate-at-large to the National Encampment. Is a lawyer, living at Clyde,



CHARLES T. SAXTON

CHARLES T. SAXTON, enlisted as a private November 19, 1861, in an organization that afterwards became the 90th New York. He was at that time fifteen years and four months old. He was soon promoted to corporal, and in about a year to sergeant. In 1863 he was color-bearer for several months; in December, 1864, he was made sergeant-major, and as such was discharged February 19, 1866, after serving four years and three months, before he was twenty years old. He was at Key West and the Tortugas in 1862 when the regiment lost one-fifth of their number from yellow fever. In 1863 the regiment took part in the siege of Port Hudson,

N. Y.; has been assemblyman and senator, his name being widely associated with the ballot reform movement. In 1894 he was elected lieutenant-governor on the republican ticket.



JOHN PALMER, who, as commander-in-chief, has held the highest office in the organization, was born in Staten Island, March 22, 1842, of English parentage. When a year old he was taken to England, and spent the next ten years on the other side of the Atlantic. Sailing with his grandfather to the Black Sea, as a boy he saw something of the siege of Sevastopol. He



JOHN PALMER

passed three years at a semi-military school near Liverpool and then came back with his parents to America, settling at Albany, where he learned the trade of painter and decorator. September 10, 1861, he enlisted in the 91st New York Volunteers, which was organized in Albany, and was mustered in as corporal in B company. His father and two brothers also entered the army, the elder Palmer dying from injuries received therein in 1863, the sons all serving till the close of the war. John Palmer served throughout the war, and by his bravery rose through all the grades from a private to the command of his company, participating in every engagement in which his regiment fought. At the battle of Five Forks, the final and decisive conflict of the rebellion, he commanded company G, the extreme left of the line of infantry in the 5th army corps. In a terrific combined charge of cavalry and infantry a horse belonging to Major Garrison's command was shot; the animal reared and threw itself bodily upon John Palmer, bearing him to the earth and crushing his spine with the hilt of a basket handled sword. In the death struggles of the poor beast Palmer was subjected to further injury, but was rescued by his comrades by being pulled out from under the dead animal. When lifted from the ground it was supposed that his injuries were fatal, but by a delicate surgical operation his life was saved, although he has suffered constantly to the present day, despite the best skill of both American and European surgeons.

In 1866, on the organization of the Grand Army, Captain Palmer became a charter member of Lew Benedict Post 5, in which he has been an active worker to the present time. He has held many positions of responsibility in the order, from commander of his post to commander of the department of New York twice, senior vice commander-in-chief in 1879 and commander-in-chief in 1891-2. In September, 1892, he had the honor of leading a column of eighty thousand veterans through the streets of Washington, in the grandest and most impressive parade the organization has made, or will ever make. The enthusiasm with which he was received on that occasion was expressive of the signal favor with which he is regarded by members of the order throughout the length and breadth of the land; as well may be the case, for no one has been more continuously and intelligently active in behalf of the

"old soldier" than John Palmer. He was one of the originators of the Soldiers' Home at Bath, which is the object of his special care. He has been identified with the management from its inception as chairman of the executive committee and is now President of the board of trustees. As a public spirited citizen he is identified with many civic associations and public enterprises, also with several savings banks and loan associations of the state. He is a man of marked executive ability—a model presiding officer. His success in life comes from an indomitable will, industry, integrity and a good sound business mind.

Although always a republican in politics, he repeatedly refused to accept nominations for office till 1893, when he was the unanimous choice of his party's convention for secretary of state, and was elected by a plurality of 25,098, to serve for two years from January 1, 1894. He was re-elected for a second term to serve three years from January 1, 1896, by a majority of 90,000.



EGBERT L. VIELE was born in Waterford, N. Y., June 17, 1825; was graduated at West Point July 1, 1847, assigned to the Second U. S. Infantry, and joining his regiment in Mexico, served under General Scott, and subsequently on the Lower Rio Grande, and at Ringgold barracks, and at Fort McIntosh. He was promoted to first lieutenant October 26, 1850, and resigned from the army in 1853 to practice civil engineering. In 1854-6 he was state engineer of New Jersey, and in 1857-8 engineer-in-chief and designer of Central Park, and four years later designer and chief engineer of Prospect Park, Brooklyn. He responded to the first call for troops. He conducted an expedition from New York to Washington, forcing a passage up the Potomac river, the first vessel to arrive at the capital with troops. After serving in May and June as captain of engineers, Seventh Regiment, New York militia, in the defense of Washington, he was commissioned brigadier-general of volunteers (August 17, 1861), and directed to form a camp of instruction at Scarsdale, N. Y.

General Viele was assigned as second in command in the South Atlantic expedition under General T. W. Sherman, September 19, and engaged in the capture of Hilton Head, S. C.

He also had command of the movement which resulted in the capture of Fort Pulaski. In 1862-3 served in the department of Virginia; planned the attack and took Norfolk and its navy-yard, and was military governor of that city from its capture until October, 1863. After superintending the draft in northern Ohio, resigned October 20, 1863, and resumed the practice of civil engineering, in which he has been eminently successful. Was a member of the forty-ninth congress from the thirteenth New York congressional district.



EGBERT L. VIELE

Mustered into the Grand Army in October, 1884; was commander of Lafayette Post in 1890 and 1891.

General Viele's father, Hon. John L. Viele, an eminent lawyer of his day, and a soldier of the war of 1812, was appointed the orator to receive General Lafayette on his visit to the battle-field of Saratoga. His maternal grandfather, Colonel Johannes Knickerbocker, commanded a regiment at the surrender of Burgoyne at Saratoga.

General Viele has been identified for nearly half a century with the principal public improvements of the city of New York. He is the author of the Topographical Atlas of the city,

a well known scientific work of great value, especially to the medical profession. He is the originator of the Board of Health, the elevated and cable railway system and of the underground system recently adopted. For more than a quarter of a century he has been professionally active in promoting the improvement of the Harlem river, recently opened to navigation, the celebration of which was under his auspices. He has planned and is now superintending the improvements of the east harbor, an important addition to the commercial facilities of the metropolis.

ABRAHAM GILBERT MILLS was born in New York city, March 12, 1844. When but four years old, his father died. He then lived for several years in Jamaica, Long Island, where he attended Union Hall Academy until the age of fifteen, when he began his commercial career by entering the service of E. H. Kellogg & Co., a business house of high standing, and which still exists in the city of New York.

On the organization of the famous Duryee Zouaves (5th N. Y. Vols.) at the outbreak of the war, he sought to enlist in that regiment, but his widowed mother could not then be persuaded to give her consent. This he finally obtained in the following year, and enlisted (at the age of eighteen) in the regiment of his choice. Meantime the Duryee Zouaves had gained a high reputation for military discipline and bravery in battle, many of our most promising young men sought to enlist in the now famous regiment and several of Mills's schoolmates and friends enlisted with him. An attempt was made to form a Zouave brigade, and Mills began his active military career in the field as a member of Company E, Second Duryee Zouaves (165th N. Y. Vols.), a regiment officered mainly from the "Old Fifth." This regiment was in active service three years in Louisiana, Texas, Virginia (under Sheridan in the Shenandoah Valley), and in South Carolina, and well sustained the high reputation of the original Duryee Zouaves, whose term of service had expired in 1863, but whose name and uniform the "Second Duryee Zouaves" made conspicuous until the close of the war.

Concerning Mills's career at the beginning and in the most notable part of the service of his regiment, Brevet Lieut.-Col. Henry C. Inwood

(one of the "old Fifth"), who was the captain of the company in which he served, writes as follows:

"He very rapidly acquired a thorough knowledge of and practical acquaintance with the duties of a soldier. He became prominently an ornament and example to the company. I promoted him corporal and very shortly afterward sergeant, in which capacity he greatly assisted me in preparing my company for field service. As a sergeant he passed through the Port Hudson campaign in 1863, and distinguished himself nobly as a brave American volunteer.

Mills had commanded his company in the fruitless night attacks on the "Citadel," the strongest point in the defenses of Port Hudson (June 29 and 30, 1863), and was on duty with his company throughout the entire campaign. After the surrender of Port Hudson and the consequent opening of the Mississippi, Mills was detached from his regiment on special duty, concerning which Col. Inwood says: "I recommended A. G. Mills for this service because he was *my best* soldier." Doubtless absence from his regiment



ABRAHAM G. MILLS

"He was side by side with me at the charge on Port Hudson May 27, 1863, and after I was disabled by a rebel bullet and the regiment very much decimated and demoralized by defeat, he conspicuously rallied them to the colors, took command of my company and, with the regiment, led them to the charge again, and, by his intrepidity, earned and received the thanks of the brigade commander (General Nickerson). I was to this an eye witness.

"On rejoining the regiment from hospital I learned from the regimental commander that Mills had conducted himself handsomely during my absence, that he had commanded the company and had rendered efficient service. I took the earliest opportunity to recommend him for a lieutenantancy and requested his assignment to my company."

on detached service prevented his further promotion, but his services to the close of the war were meritorious and he was honorably mustered out with his regiment September 1, 1865.

Shortly afterward he was offered and accepted a position in the civil service of the government in Washington, D. C., and entered the Columbian College Law School in that city in 1867, whence he graduated in 1869 and was admitted to practice in the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia. Meantime he had been promoted to an important position in the U. S. treasury department and in 1871 was sent to London

with a delegation of treasury officials in connection with re-funding the government bonds.

In 1874 he resigned his government office to enter commercial life, in which he has had a successful career, and is now vice-president and secretary of Otis Brothers & Co., the well known elevator builders, and is also a director in several other important business enterprises.

He entered Lafayette Post No. 140, G. A. R., in 1890, and in the following year was elected commander of that famous post. On the expiration of his term he was unanimously re-elected commander, and is still a recognized leader in that select, progressive and influential organization of veterans of the war.

He is also a member of the Loyal Legion, of the United Service Club, a life member of the Society of the Army of the Potomac, a vice-president of the Nineteenth Army Corps Society, an associate member of the Duryee Zouaves (Old Fifth) Veteran Association, and vice-president of the Veteran Association of the Second Duryee Zouaves (165th N. Y. Vols.).

In social and club life he is equally conspicuous as a leader. He is president of three clubs and associations in the Adirondacks, a vice-president of the Colonial Club, a member of the governing boards of the Engineers' and Patria Clubs, ex-president of the New York Athletic Club and of the National League B. B. C., and is also a member of a large number of patriotic, scientific, charitable, commercial and social clubs and organizations.

RASTUS S. RANSOM was born in Mount Hawley, Ill., March 31, 1839. He enlisted May 31, 1861, and was conspicuously identified with the recruiting and organizing of the 50th N. Y. Volunteer Engineers, which was mustered into service September 15, 1861, and was commissioned first lieutenant, Co. H, to rank from September 16. The regiment encamped at Hall's Hill, Va., and was assigned to Butterfield's brigade, Fitzjohn Porter's division. After some time spent in drill the regiment was sent to Washington navy yard, and there equipped to join the peninsula campaign. It was sent forward via City Point, to Yorktown, and was in the trenches from April 3, 1862, to May 4, when the enemy evacuated, and our troops occupied the city. After a few days the 50th was moved to White House Landing as

a part of Gen. Woodbury's brigade of volunteer engineers, and Lieutenant Ransom participated in the operations of the Army of the Potomac in its advance on Richmond, up to and including the battle of Fair Oaks.

During the peninsular campaign Lieutenant Ransom was in command of his company, the captain being on detached duty. His health failed, however, to such degree that remaining any longer in the Virginia swamps meant speedy death. Unwilling to resign, he obtained thirty days' leave of absence, thinking he might in that



RASTUS S. RANSOM

time regain his health and return to his command. He was moved from camp on a hand-car drawn by a mule, but at White House Landing, the surgeon in charge, finding some supposed irregularity in his papers, ordered him back to camp in the swamps. His condition being critical, the surgeon of the brigade so certified, and Lieutenant Ransom was discharged May 31, 1862, on the ground of disabilities contracted in the service in the line of duty.

Lieutenant Ransom returned to his home in Elmira a physical wreck. Later on, in the hope of being of some further service to his country, he made application for admission to the invalid

corps (July 16, 1863), but was found unfit for even that branch of the service. The following letter shows the esteem and respect in which he was held by the colonel of the 50th:

HEADQUARTERS 50TH REGT., N. Y. VOL.,
 "CAMP ADVANCE" NEAR NEW BRIDGE, VA.,
 May 31, 1862.

R. S. RANSOM, *First Lieutenant*:

DEAR SIR—I can not permit you to leave this regiment—compelled by long continued ill health—without expressing my sincere sympathy for the cause and evident propriety of the act—at this particular crisis—which I know pains you much.

Allow me to add my testimony of your ability, zeal and industry in discharging the duties of first lieutenant of Company H, of 50th Regiment, N. Y. Vol., since the organization of the regiment last August, and for nearly half that period, those of lieutenant commanding, during the absence of Captain Beers on detached service.

I desire also to testify my high appreciation of the ability and courage displayed by you, during the arduous and dangerous service the officers and soldiers of this regiment (as part of the "Engineer Brigade" of the Army of the Potomac) were called upon to perform for several weeks before Yorktown, constructing batteries, pontoon and other bridges, entrenchments and parallels, under the almost constant fire from the cannon and mortars of the enemy.

With the hope that the care and comforts of home, and suitable rest will restore your health, and my wishes for your happiness and prosperity hereafter,

I am, dear sir,

Very truly your friend,

CHARLES B. STUART,
Colonel 50th Regt., N. Y. V.

Comrade Ransom is now a prominent member of the New York bar, and he was surrogate of the county of New York for six years. He is a member of Lafayette Post and the Loyal Legion, in which he is deservedly popular, as he is in all other organizations with which he is connected.



JAMES ARMSTRONG BLANCHARD was born in Jefferson county, N. Y., August 16th, 1845, of Huguenot, English and Scotch descent. When nine years old his family moved to Wisconsin, and in that state he enlisted in the Second Wisconsin Cavalry, joining the regiment in the summer of 1864, when it was near Vicksburg, where they were principally engaged. When asked for his military record, Comrade Blanchard said:

"In view of many records, it is hardly worth mentioning. When the war broke out my father

was dead. I was the baby of the family, and my brothers and sisters had gone their several ways. Mother and I lived on the farm and took care of each other, and the farm took care of us. In 1864 I enlisted as a private soldier in the Second Wisconsin Cavalry and was assigned to Company I. I was a mere atom of the lowest known quantity in the regiment, filling the niches assigned me, and if you would know my military record you must look for it in the history of the regiment."

Turning to the history we find that on Dec. 1st several companies of the regiment, numbering 280 men, were sent out to learn the position and strength of the enemy. About eleven miles from Yazoo City they met the enemy's pickets, drove them in, and soon became engaged with a force four or five times their number. Companies E, F, H and I were ordered to dismount and dislodge the enemy. A sharp battle ensued. The major in command was severely wounded, and the companies engaged lost about forty in killed, wounded and missing. The enemy's loss was seventy-five. The major commanding, in his report, says: "I cannot refrain from speaking of Lieutenant R. R. Hamilton, of Company F, and Lieutenant Tinkham, of Company I, and their companies, who displayed the greatest bravery and fought gallantly, and deserve the highest praise." Soon after this engagement, the regiment proceeded to Memphis, from where it took part in one of the Grierson raids, which covered some 450 miles and resulted in the capture of 500 prisoners, who were turned over to the Second Wisconsin to guard. General Grierson says in his report: "The Second Wisconsin was detached to take charge of the prisoners, and the officers and men of this regiment deserve much praise for the cheerfulness with which they performed this arduous duty during the balance of the march." On this raid immense amounts of the enemy's property were captured and destroyed, and General Grierson, in closing his report of it, says: "This, one of the most successful expeditions of the war, undertaken, as it was, at a period when roads and streams were considered almost impassible, could not have met with such extraordinary success without the patient endurance and hearty co-operation which were evinced by my entire command, and all those who participated richly deserve the lasting gratitude of the government and remem-

brance of their countrymen." The command reached Vicksburg Jan. 5th, 1865, were transferred back to Memphis, whence they went on what was called the "mud" raid into Arkansas and Louisiana, destroying property, breaking up and capturing bands of the enemy, consuming something more than a month, and notable for the unprecedented rainfall which made the whole country one vast and almost impassible swamp. Returning to Memphis February 20th, the regiment was engaged in guarding Memphis and hunting guerillas and fragments of armies

their final discharges at Madison, Wis., Dec. 15th, 1865. The latter part of the service was performed under the command of General Custer.

Comrade Blanchard relates an interesting incident that occurred during this campaign. The lieutenant-colonel temporarily in command of the regiment, was very unpopular, and at Alexandria, some 150 of the men having been drinking freely, made a demonstration by marching to his tent, and having chosen the orderly-sergeant of Company C as spokesman, informed their commanding officer that if he did not leave the regiment in twenty-four hours they would dump him, head and heels, into the Red river. Of course the officer did not leave, but the orderly-sergeant was court-martialed, and with another officer who had committed a far more heinous offense, sentenced to be shot. All the preparations were made for the execution; the troops were ordered out to witness the spectacle; the men were placed on their coffins, beside their open graves; the first word of command was given, and then in the midst of the most breathless silence, an orderly rushed forward and snatched the sergeant out of range. The other man was shot. The sergeant's sentence had been commuted to three years' imprisonment, the result of a petition signed generally by the officers, who knew his soldierly record. Curiously enough, however, while the petition was granted, it was so worded in its reflections upon the same unpopular lieutenant-colonel, that General Custer ordered the seventeen commissioned officers who signed it to be placed under arrest, and all the non-commissioned officers reduced to the ranks. While the regiment was on the march from Alexandria to the Rio Grande, General Sheridan met it at Hempstead, Texas, and after investigating the matter revoked the order of General Custer and restored the commissioned officers to their commands, and the non-commissioned officers to their former rank.

Somewhat broken in health, Comrade Blanchard, instead of returning to the farm, resolved to acquire an education, and entering Ripon College, prepared for college, pursued the classical course, graduated in 1871, came east, and after a course at Columbia College Law School, began the practice of law in the city of New York, and is now at the head of the firm of



JAMES A. BLANCHARD

in Northern Mississippi and Western Tennessee until May 9th, when they were sent to Grenada, Miss., to garrison that place. Once more returning to Memphis, they were ordered to Alexandria, Louisiana, and from there overland to the Rio Grande, presumably to look after the operations of Maximilian in that quarter. This long march was begun on the 8th day of August. There was considerable suffering from the heat, scarcity of water and food. Stops were made on the way for rest and recuperation. The march ended at Austin, Texas, on the 6th day of November. It was here they were mustered out, months after the war was over, and received



EDWARD J. ATKINSON



Blanchard, Gay & Phelps, with offices in the Tribune Building. Mr. Blanchard has confined his attention entirely to the civil department of the law, in which he has built up a large and lucrative business. Without being, in any sense of the word, a seeker for political preferment, he has long stood high in the councils of the republican party. He was one of the organizers, in 1887, of the National League of Republican Clubs, and has ever since been active in its official management. He is a member of the Bar Association, of the Republican and Union League Clubs, of the Geographical Society, and of Lafayette Post, No. 140.



EDWARD J. ATKINSON, the department commander of the Department of New York in 1895, was born in the city of New York, March 10, 1843. On leaving the public schools he found employment in the wholesale drygoods house of Robertson, Hudson & Pulliam, and remained with them till they went down in the panic of 1857. He was next bookkeeper for W. E. Brockway, a New York brewer, till April 15, 1861, and then enlisted in Co. A, 9th N. Y. S. M. Days and weeks passed on, men and officers were all eager to take part in the stirring events which were thrilling the country, but no word came from the governor ordering them to the front, so when May 27 came around, and still no order to go forward had been received, they started on their own account, passed unarmed through Baltimore on their way to Washington, and on June 6 were mustered into the United States service as the 83d New York volunteers—and they were volunteers, indeed.

Without his knowledge Atkinson's name was placed on the muster roll by the adjutant, as principal musician, and thus he became a member of the non-commissioned staff of the regiment, but while at the head of the regimental drum corps, he was also a private soldier in Co. A, and thus did double duty. While with the regiment he participated in the engagements of Sandy Hook, Md., Second Bull Run, South Mountain, Antietam, Chantilly, Cedar Mountain, Thoroughfare Gap and Fredericksburgh, besides a number of skirmishes. In March 1863, the war department having decided to dispense with the services of principal musicians, he was mustered

out, and came home. Since then he has been deputy warden of the New York penitentiary eight years; cashier of the Weed sewing machine company seven years, leaving that position to accept one of searcher in the county clerk's office. In 1888 he was promoted to his present position of chief of that department of the office.

In 1880 he joined Kilpatrick Post, of which he was commander for two terms. In 1887 he organized Horace B. Claflin Post, 578, and was its second commander for one term. The esteem in which he is held by his comrades is shown by the fact that, by the unanimous vote of the New York posts, he has been chosen secretary and executive officer of the memorial committee for fourteen consecutive terms. In 1893 he was elected senior vice department commander; in 1894 he was a candidate for department commander, but was defeated by John C. Shotts. His success the ensuing year demonstrates the truth of the frequent declaration that the G. A. R. is not a political organization, for while a majority of department commanders in this state have happened to be republicans, Commander Atkinson has always been a democrat. Honorable in all his dealings, loyal to the order, and helpful to its members, no distinction it confers by ballot can be higher than the one bestowed upon him long ago by popular acclaim—"a good comrade!"



FRANK ABBOTT.—Dr. Frank Abbott was born September 5, 1836, in Shapleigh, York county, Maine, and is a lineal descendant of George Abbott who settled in Andover, Mass., in 1640. It is to the honorable record of this family that it includes from sixty to one hundred members who, ranking from private to general, participated in all the colonial wars up to the Declaration of Peace in 1781.

After attending schools in his native town, and clerking for a while in a Boston dry-goods store, Frank Abbott, in 1857, turned his attention to dentistry which eventually became his life-work. After practicing for seven years he took up the study of medicine, graduating in 1871— meantime settling in New York where he has attained the highest rank as specialist in the practice of dental and oral surgery.

While living in Johnstown, N. Y., in 1862, he became largely instrumental in raising the One

Hundred and Fifteenth New York Regiment, which was recruited in the counties of Fulton, Montgomery and Saratoga, and was commissioned first lieutenant of Company E. The regiment was at once ordered to the Shenandoah valley, and for about a week guarded the Potomac and Winchester railroad from Charleston to Winchester. They were then ordered to Harper's Ferry, and camped on Bolivar Heights overlooking the scene made forever historical by the John Brown insurrection. On September 13th three companies with similar details from other regiments were sent over the river into

started west for the alleged purpose of fighting Indians. They were, however, stopped and quartered at Camp Douglas, Chicago, until they were exchanged, and while there Lieutenant Abbott resigned, having acted during the greater part of his term as adjutant of the regiment.

Returning to Johnstown in November he resumed his practice. In the summer of 1863 was drafted, but on examination was declared exempt, being physically unfit for service.

Dr. Abbott is past master of Astor Lodge, 603, F. and A. M.; Fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine; member of the New York



FRANK ABBOTT

Maryland on picket duty. The following morning a skirmish began on Maryland Heights, and lasted from 10 A. M. till 3 P. M., when the Union men were ordered back to their quarters on Bolivar Heights, the enemy planting cannon where they had held our line in the morning. The troops on Bolivar Heights, 10,000 strong, were kept under the fire of five batteries posted at different points commanding the camp, our men replying with seventy-one guns. The Union forces held the position from Saturday at 3 P. M. till Monday at 8 A. M., being constantly under fire, when a white flag was run up, and the Union command surrendered to Stonewall Jackson. They were immediately paroled (September 16) and sent to Annapolis, and from there

County Medical Society; American Dental Association; New York Odontological Society, and of the New York State and First District Dental Societies; Fellow of the American Geographical Society; member of the New York Academy of Sciences; Linnæan Society of New York, and member of the University Club; has been dean of the New York College of Dentistry for twenty-six years; professor of dental histology, surgery and therapeutics; ex-president of the National Association of Dental Faculties; ex-president of the American Dental Association; is the author of several microscopically illustrated monographs upon dental subjects, and a treatise upon dental pathology and practice; is a member of Lafayette Post, G. A. R.

ALBERT MONFORT CUDNER was born in Wappingers Falls, N. Y., November 27, 1840, and lived there till the spring of 1853, when his parents moved to Coldwater, Mich., where he remained till early in 1860, when he engaged in the grocery business in Rockford, Ill.

On the 6th of August, 1862, he enlisted as a private in Co. K, 74th Illinois Vol. Infantry, for three years, and September 28 left with his regiment for Louisville, crossing the river at New Albany, on pontoons, at midnight, the command



A. M. CUDNER

reporting to Gen. D. C. Buel. For a time the regiment served in the 14th and 20th corps, and after the reorganization of the army under General Rosecrantz, became part of the 1st brigade, 2d division, 4th corps, Army of the Cumberland, and continued as such till the close of the war. The division was commanded in the Kentucky campaign by Gen. Jeff. C. Davis; at Chattanooga and in the assault of Mission Ridge by General Sheridan, and in the Atlanta campaign by Gen. John Newton.

Comrade Cudner was in the ranks with his regiment in all its battles, charges and skirmishes, from Perrysville, Ky., October 8, 1862, to the investment of Atlanta, in August, 1864. At the battle of Stone River (Murfreesboro), December

31, he was wounded, captured and for a short time confined in Libby prison. Was exchanged in the summer following and returned to his regiment, then at Chattanooga. In the assault and capture of Missionary Ridge he was in Sheridan's 2d division, 4th corps, which had orders to take the works at the foot of the ridge; but instead of stopping at the foot, the corps, without orders, pressed on, stormed the ridge itself, and took it. After this the corps was sent to the relief of Burnside, who was besieged at Knoxville by Longstreet, and remained in East Tennessee until May 7, 1864, when the Atlanta campaign was opened. In that memorable part of the great struggle Comrade Cudner was in the battles of Tunnel Hill, Rocky Face Ridge, Dalton, Resaca, Calhoun, New Hope Church, Lost Mountain, Kenesaw Mountain (in which the regiment lost 31 per cent in killed and wounded—33 killed and 30 wounded, out of 201, the numerical strength of the regiment when it went into the fight), Vining's Station, Peach Tree Creek and Atlanta.

On leaving home September 28, 1862, the regiment numbered 950, officers and men; but at the battle of Peach Tree Creek, July 20, 1864, the muster roll showed less than 130 of all grades, Co. K numbering only six.

After the capture of Atlanta, Comrade Cudner was commissioned second lieutenant and assigned to the 42d U. S. Colored Infantry, then at Chattanooga; was promoted to first lieutenant, and appointed adjutant, holding that position till mustered out of the service January 31, 1866. He is a member of Lafayette Post and of the Loyal Legion. At present is in the real estate business in New York city.



ALEXANDER PHOENIX KETCHUM (born in New Haven, Conn., May 11, 1839,) is the son of Edgar Ketchum and Elizabeth Phoenix, and thus descended through both lines from distinguished New York families. Through his grandparents on his father's side (John Jauncey Ketchum and Susanna Jauncey who were cousins), a double line comes down through the Jauncey family from Guleyn Vigne and Adrianna Cavilge; as also from Cornelius Van Tienhoven, secretary of New Netherlands, and "one of the largest contributors to the defenses of New Amsterdam in the list of 1665." Through his mother he is descended from Jacob Phoenix

and Anna Van Vleck, who appear in Dominic Selwyn's list of the Dutch Church in 1686. His grandfather was Rev. Alexander Phoenix; and his great-grandfather the illustrious merchant, Daniel Phoenix, who, as chairman of the delegation of merchants in 1789, delivered the address of welcome on the occasion of Washington's inauguration, and who was the first comptroller of the city of New York, which office he held nearly a quarter of a century.



ALEXANDER P. KETCHUM

Colonel Alexander Phoenix Ketchum graduated with honors from the College of the City of New York in 1858, after having won prizes for natural history, drawing, mathematics and oratory. He served a year as tutor in drawing and mathematics in his alma mater, and in 1860 graduated from the Albany Law School, and was the same year admitted to the bar. The civil war then breaking out, he became connected with the department of the South, and as a staff officer of the military governor of South Carolina, General Rufus Saxton, was active in the conduct of affairs on the southern coast. Transferred to the staff of Major-General O. O. Howard in 1865, he served as acting assistant adjutant-general in Charleston, and later in Washington. In September, 1867, he resigned

from the army with the rank of brevet-colonel.

In 1869 Colonel Ketchum was appointed by President Grant assessor of internal revenue for the Ninth district of New York; later on collector for the same district; in 1874 was transferred to the customs service as general appraiser of the Port of New York; and in 1883 was appointed by President Arthur chief appraiser of the same port, which office he vacated in 1885 upon the accession of President Cleveland. From that time Colonel Ketchum has devoted himself exclusively to the practice of the law, building up a large and lucrative business along the lines in which his father was so successful—the charge of estates and conveying, and in connection with important customs suits in the United States courts, having also a considerable general practice.

As a resident of Harlem since 1839, Colonel Ketchum has been active in the development of upper New York. He was one of the founders of the Mount Morris Bank, and its first president. In 1890 and 1891 he was president of the Presbyterian Union of New York city, while he has been prominent in connection with the Young Men's Christian Association and various benevolent and educational projects. He has done considerable literary work and has delivered many public addresses, that on Garfield, delivered before the students of West Point, being especially notable. Besides being a member of Lafayette Post, Colonel Ketchum was for four years president of the Alumni Association of the College of the City of New York; is president of the City College Club; and member of the Military order of the Loyal Legion, the City and State Bar Associations, the Numismatic and Archaeological Society, New England Society, Phi Beta Kappa Society, and the Republican, Harlem Republican, Harlem, Quill, University, and Alpha Delta Phi Clubs, and the New York, Atlantic, Larchmont, New Rochelle, Riverside and Rhode Island Yacht Clubs.



EDGAR KETCHUM (brother of Alexander P. Ketchum, subject of the foregoing sketch,) was born July 15, 1840, in New York city. Graduated from the College of the City of New York in 1860, with the degree of A. B., and subsequently received that of A. M.; and from the Columbia College Law School in 1862,

with the degree of LL. B. His first military experience was as a member of Company C, Seventh New York National Guard. He was subsequently commissioned second lieutenant, Signal Corps, U. S. A., with rank as such from March 3, 1863, and at once entered the camp of instruction at Georgetown, D. C. His first assignment to active duty was in the Twenty-fourth Army Corps, Army of the James, then in front of Richmond. He had the special honor



EDGAR KETCHUM

to be highly commended in the report of his superiors for services rendered during the engagements there. In January, 1865, he was assigned to the staff of General C. J. Payne who commanded a division of the second expedition against Fort Fisher, and after landing through the surf, assisted in establishing a line from the Atlantic coast to Cape Fear River to cut off the communications of General Hoke with the fort, an enterprise of great difficulty, owing to the marshy condition of the land, and the facilities the enemy possessed for a concealed attack upon our men. Was signal officer with General Alfred H. Terry at the capture of the fort, and during the battle from 3 to 10 P. M., was constantly engaged in transmitting signals to Admiral Porter commanding the fleet, and so

directing the fire of the gunboats, being exposed to the combined assault of the artillery, musketry and sharpshooters. He entered the fort with General Terry, and was placed in command of the signal station established on the northeast parapet. The following morning the large magazine of the fort, containing some 13,000 pounds of powder, was accidentally exploded, killing nearly 200 men. The signal station being only about 100 feet distant, was covered with earth to a depth of two feet, and Lieutenant Ketchum narrowly escaped suffocation. He remained on duty at the fort until early in February, when General Terry was reinforced by General Schofield and the twenty-third corps, General Schofield assuming the command in the movement against Fort Anderson and Wilmington, and Lieutenant Ketchum was assigned to his staff. Later on he was assigned to the staff of General J. D. Cox, as chief signal officer, and acted in that capacity till after the capture of Wilmington, February 22, 1865, performing valuable services in connection with the capture of Fort Anderson, and all the other fortifications on the west side of the Cape Fear River south of Wilmington.

Shortly after the capture of Wilmington, Sherman's army being supposed to be at, or near Fayetteville, N. C., an effort was made to open communication with him by way of the Cape Fear River, and Lieutenant Ketchum accompanied the expedition on a small gunboat. The trip was made exceedingly difficult by the narrowness and irregularity of the river, its sharp bends, and the frequency with which torpedoes were planted along its course. Sherman not having reached his objective point, the expedition proved fruitless, and Lieutenant Ketchum returned to General Terry's staff, and remained with him till after the battles of Averyboro and Bentonville, between the 17th and 20th of March, after which he was again ordered to the army of the James, remaining on duty after the capture of Richmond, and until honorably discharged August 11, 1865. For gallant and meritorious service at the capture of Fort Fisher he received the rank of brevet first lieutenant, and for similar service during the war, the rank of brevet captain.

On his return to New York, a short term of service being necessary to complete his seven years in the Seventh Regiment, he resumed duty

therewith, and was made a non-commissioned officer. On completing his full term, in recognition of services performed in the army, he was appointed engineer with rank of major, on the staff of General William G. Ward, First Brigade, New York National Guard, and held the position for three years, after which he resigned and was honorably discharged.

On his return from the army he resumed his law practice, which he has continued ever since. Besides being a member of Lafayette Post, he belongs to the military order of the Loyal Legion, the Society of the Army of the Potomac, the War Veterans of the Seventh Regiment and the Veteran Signal Corps Association.

His father, Edgar Ketchum, a distinguished lawyer of New York, was collector of internal revenue, appointed by President Lincoln at the outbreak of the war, and was afterwards appointed register in bankruptcy by Chief Justice Chase, and held that position at the time of his death in 1882.

Comrade Ketchum is the great grandson of Daniel Phoenix, the first city treasurer and chamberlain of New York, which offices he held for more than twenty years. He was also a member of New York's first chamber of commerce, and one of the city's most prominent and respected citizens one hundred years ago.



FRED C. WAGNER.—Not all the important service rendered the country in her hour of peril was performed at the front, as is shown by the record of Comrade Fred C. Wagner, who, though commissioned captain of cavalry by President Lincoln in May, 1863, was attached to no regiment, but was appointed provost marshal for the seventh district, state of New York, and served as such till December, 1865, in the city of New York, which, of course, was not only a highly important point for the enlistment of recruits, but large bodies of troops were frequently quartered here, and others were often passing through, affording opportunities for desertion that had to be counteracted by alert work on the part of the provost marshal. During the draft riots matters assumed a still more serious turn, and altogether the duties assigned to Captain Wagner were not only arduous, but delicate and exacting. That they were well and faithfully performed his record is convincing proof.

Comrade Wagner was born in New York in 1831. His parents died in his infancy. His maternal grandfather, Joseph Runyan, was a soldier from New Jersey in the war of 1812, and died a soldier's death at New Orleans. Before the late war Mr. Wagner was in the India rubber business with Horace H. Day, and he is now a real estate broker and appraiser at 52 Broadway. He held the office of school trustee of the 17th



FRED C. WAGNER

ward, which capacity he served acceptably for sixteen years. He joined Lafayette Post in 1888 and is one of its most respected members.



FRED COCHEU. As indicated by the name, the father of Fred Cocheu was a Frenchman; his mother was born in New York city of parents of American descent for six generations, and Comrade Cocheu himself, also born in the same city March 30, 1832, is as true an American as wears the button of the G. A. R. Obligated to earn his own living since the time he was eight years old, he was self-educated, as well as self-supported. When the war broke out he promptly resigned a lucrative position, and enlisted as a private, together with three of his brothers, in the early May of 1861. In Oc-



FRED. COCHEU



tober following he was made a captain of H Co., 53d New York Vols., and although subsequently twice elected lieutenant-colonel and once a colonel, refused promotion, but remained a captain till the end.

His first experience was one of extreme peril on the Burnside expedition in which the regiment was shipwrecked off Cape Hatteras, and for forty-eight days he was one of 800 on board the ship John Trucks, with only twelve days' provisions. Notwithstanding the 53d was a three years regiment, it was, owing to the suffering of the men, honorably mustered out of service by order of the war department, March 26, 1862.

A hurried trip to Albany, and four days later Cocheu had received from Gov. Morgan a commission as captain in I Co., 85th New York Vols., and in three days was with that regiment at Fortress Monroe. He was through the whole campaign with the army of the Potomac to Harrison's Landing; was then sent with his brigade to Norfolk and Suffolk, Va., and in January, 1863, to New Berne, N. C., through the Dismal Swamp canal. He was made chief of the ambulance corps of the 18th A. C., till relieved and sent back to his regiment, at his own request, in April. Soon afterwards he was sent with his own company and five others (one from each regiment in the brigade) to take charge of Roanoke Island, N. C., where the captain was in command with over 75,000 negroes to provide for. Late in this year, his father having died, and one brother being killed in battle, Capt. Cocheu was compelled to resign in order to attend to imperative private business. As soon as this could be arranged he once more re-enlisted and was made captain of I Co., 61st New York Vols., and was with Grant from Stevensburg to Petersburg, in all serving over three years, and participating in thirty-four regular battles, and skirmishes innumerable. He was wounded three times.

Comrade Cocheu's record in the Grand Army is of twenty-six years standing, during which time he has commanded a post twelve terms, served one term as inspector-general of the department, and held various positions of honor and trust on the staffs of department and national commanders. He also had the honor of being grand marshal of the thirty-two posts of Kings county for the year 1885, and on the occasion of the burial of Gen. Grant.

Comrade Cocheu has been a republican ever since there was a republican party, and in 1872 was elected member of assembly from the 7th district of Kings county by a handsome majority, although the district was usually democratic by 3,800.



JOHN ADOLPHUS KAMPING was born March 29th, 1842, in the kingdom of Hanover, and came, when three or four years of age, to America, where his family settled in Cincin-



JOHN A. KAMPING

nati, Ohio. He received his early education in the public schools of that city, being at the age of ten admitted to the high school, where he continued for two years, after which he engaged in business until the age of seventeen. He began as a teacher in the public schools, and in three years worked himself up to the position of principal of the third district school of Cincinnati, which position he attained at the age of nineteen and held for five years, when he resigned to engage in business in New York city.

On the outbreak of the war he joined, in connection with other teachers of the schools of Cincinnati, a company of the National Guard,

known as the Teachers' Company, which during the four years of the war performed services in defense of the city as they were required. It was an agreement between the members of this company, that in case the general government should call upon them at any time for active service to the front, that they would respond in person, and in the spring of 1864, when President Lincoln called upon the governors of Pennsylvania, Ohio and Indiana for 40,000 additional troops for active duty, to finish the war, these governors furnished them in a very short period of time, the Teachers' Company forming Co. K of the 138th Ohio regiment, Colonel S. S. Fisher commanding. The company were sent to Petersburg and vicinity, when, having accomplished the purposes for which the call was made, they were discharged. It is to the credit of that company that out of the whole number who belonged to it, only two or three remained at home, the rest having fulfilled their promise made at the beginning of the war to serve in the front when called upon.

Circumstances in business making it desirable for Mr. Kamping to enter the profession of law in 1877, he was admitted to the bar, in which profession he has continued ever since. It has been his established habit, founded upon an early conviction of life's duty, that everyone should make some step in advance, of mental improvement each and every year of life, and this principle has been practiced with unremitting constancy, so that at the end of the year he could truthfully say that he had added one more acquirement of the mind to the store of knowledge previously obtained, thus carrying into practice the French saying "That a proper life consists in the art of employing one's time properly." He became a member of Lafayette Post in 1892.



JOHN J. CLANCY is a native of the city of Dublin, where he was born on February 8th, 1843. He was brought to America when two and a half years old, and ever since has made his home in New York city. He enlisted September 18, 1862, in the 165th New York, which first saw active service under General N. P. Banks, in the Nineteenth Army Corps, Department of the Gulf, taking part in the expedition through the Teche country preliminary to the

siege of Port Hudson; also in the series of engagements which took place around that stronghold before it fell, July 8, 1863. After the surrender the regiment went on the Red River expedition, and after that campaign to Sabine Pass, Tex.; thence to Algiers opposite New Orleans. From there they were transported to the coast, and to Fortress Monroe, from which they were ordered up the James River to Deep Bottom to build pontoon bridges, and then to Harper's Ferry, where they took



JOHN J. CLANCY

part in all the engagements that took place in that vicinity; then to Winchester and Cedar Creek under General P. A. Sheridan. After Appomattox the regiment had four months to serve, and were sent to Charleston, where they were mustered out in the fall of 1865. Comrade Clancy was with the regiment all the time, serving in the ranks as private and after the second year as corporal. Since the war he has engaged in the real estate business in New York city, where he resides, and is vice-president of the Riverside Bank. He is a member of Lafayette Post, and wholly in sympathy with its aims and methods.

WILLIAM COURTENAY was born in Baltimore, Md., August 7, 1837, and was educated in the schools of his native city. He held clerical positions, and engaged in various manufacturing enterprises, in the west and elsewhere until April, 1861, when, at the breaking out of the war, he enlisted in the 71st New York and did duty with the regiment till the following August.

After the battle of Bull Run he was mustered out, and acted on the staff of Gen. Henry Brewerton in the construction of field works around the

years after the war was Quartermaster of that regiment. Has been a member of Lafayette Post since 1885.



VINCENT MEIGS WILCOX, late colonel 132d Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, was born in Madison, New Haven county, Ct., October 17, 1828, and is the son of Zenas and Lovisa Meigs Wilcox. On both his father's and his mother's side he is descended from and connected with some of the oldest families in New England.

The genealogical records of the Wilcox family show it to have existed in Britain even prior to the Norman Conquest. William Wilcox, a lineal descendant of Sir John Wilcox, a noted knight of the time of Edward III, settled in Stratford, Ct., in what was then known as the New Haven Colony, as early as 1639. He was prominent in the affairs of the colony, and in 1647 was a representative of the General Court at Hartford. His son Obadiah, when he became of age, settled at East Guilford, now known as Madison, Ct., and from him Colonel Wilcox descends in the fifth generation. On his mother's side he descends from Vincent Meigs, who also settled in Guilford about the year 1638 and laid the foundation for a long line of distinguished descendants, who have made a name in the educational, judicial, political, medical and military affairs of our country. His maternal grandmother, who was Mrs. Mary Field Meigs, daughter of Timothy Field, a captain and distinguished officer in the Revolutionary war, an ancestor of the Field family that includes such illustrious names as David Dudley Field and Cyrus W. Field. Colonel Wilcox was educated at Lee's Academy, in his native place, and on leaving school followed the occupation of teacher for three years. Soon after he engaged in the mercantile business and became prominent in the local affairs of the town. In 1860 he removed to Scranton, Pa., and was extensively engaged in the mercantile business in that city when the war broke out and the North was aroused. While residing in his native town he became an active member of the 2d Regiment, Connecticut State Militia, and a lieutenant in the Madison Light Guard. While acting in this capacity he received a course of tactical instruction under General Hardee, author of "Hardee's Tactics," and afterwards a noted Confederate general.



WILLIAM COURTENAY

city of Baltimore until 1862, when he was transferred to Portland, Maine, as Civil Assistant in the Corps of Engineers in the construction of permanent fortifications and field works, including Forts Gorges, Preble, Scammel, Knox, Popham, and at different points along the coast, all in the department of Maine.

On leaving the government service in November, 1865, he returned to Baltimore and engaged in mercantile pursuits until 1870, when he removed to New York, and has been a resident of that city ever since. He is largely interested in manufacturing enterprises, being president of several large corporations. Is a member of the Lawyers' Club, Sons of the Revolution, and Veterans' Association of the 71st Regiment, and for a term of three

At the call to arms Mr. Wilcox responded at once and joined a company of young men, hastily organized in Scranton, to prepare for service in the army. His military knowledge was soon discovered and he was induced to instruct his associates in the art of war. So successful was he in his instruction that forty-eight out of the seventy-five members of the company became officers in the Union army, serving with distinction in many a hotly contested battle.

On May 13, 1862, Lieutenant Wilcox was appointed brigade judge advocate on the staff of



VINCENT M. WILCOX

Brigadier-Gen. A. N. Meylert, with the rank of major. Upon the formation of the 132d Regiment, Pennsylvania Vols., he was made lieutenant-colonel. On the 19th of August, 1862, the regiment moved to the front and encamped at Fort Corcoran, where the regiment received a course of instruction in necessary military tactics. On September 2, 1862, it made a march of twenty-two miles to Rockville, Md., and was assigned to Kimball's brigade of French's division, Sumner's corps. On the 13th of September they made a forced march of thirty-three miles, reaching the battlefield of South Mountain just as the battle was over. On the morning of the 17th, at the battle of Antietam, the regiment met the enemy at close quarters and for the first time was under direct fire. Placed in an important position,

they held it for four hours. While the line of battle was being formed, Colonel Oakford, who led the regiment, was mortally wounded and the command devolved upon Lieut.-Colonel Wilcox. At an important crisis in the battle Colonel Wilcox received orders from General Kimball to hold the ground to the last extremity. When this order was received, the ammunition was found to be exhausted. Colonel Wilcox at once conceived the idea of using that in the cartridge boxes of the dead and wounded, and was thus enabled to keep up the fight. When the last shot had been fired, he received orders to charge the enemy. Fixing bayonets, the regiment, under his lead, rushed forward with such fierceness that the Confederates were driven from their position and a colonel and several men were captured. At the close of the battle Lieut.-Colonel Wilcox was promoted to a full colonelcy. In October, 1862, his regiment participated in the reconnaissance to Leesburg. The fatigue attending this forced march resulted in a severe illness (with typhoid fever) for Colonel Wilcox, and for a time he was confined to the Officers' Seminary hospital near Washington. Partially recovering, he presented himself for duty, but the examining surgeon refused to accept him as a well man, and reluctantly he retired from active service. Lieut.-Colonel Albright, writing from camp at Belle Plains, Va., November 28, 1862, said: "I should like to see you here, as I know all the boys would, but, believe me, I am afraid to have you come on account of your health. You are known to be a brave, capable and efficient officer and beloved by all, and you can do nothing that will make you more so."

After recovering his health, he came to New York and accepted a responsible position with E. & H. T. Anthony & Co., manufacturers and importers of photographers' supplies. In 1870 he was admitted as a partner, and eventually became secretary, vice-president and president of the corporation. Comrade Wilcox became a member of Lafayette Post in March, 1889. He is also a member of the Loyal Legion. He is also an elder in the Phillips Presbyterian church on Madison avenue and one of the executive committee of the Presbyterian Union. Colonel Wilcox is a man of fine presence and a fine speaker, and his annual addresses to his old regiment have been frequently published and are full of enthusiasm and patriotic principles.

ALEXANDER B. CRANE. The combination of lawyer and soldier afforded in the life and public services of Alexander B. Crane is an interesting illustration of the kind of material of which the Union army, was in part, composed. Born in Berkley, Mass., April 23, 1833, and graduated at Amherst in 1854, he removed to Terre Haute, Ind., there studied law in the office of Richard W. Thompson (secretary of the navy under President Hayes), was admitted to the bar in 1856, and speedily worked into a large and important practice, first as a member of the firm



ALEXANDER B. CRANE

of McLean & Crane, and afterwards as Scott & Crane. He came still further into prominence in the county where he resided, by being elected its prosecuting attorney. From the birth of the republican party in 1856, he was one of its most hopeful, energetic and enthusiastic members, working with all his might for the cause of free speech, free soil, Fremont, and when the war broke out, and for a few weeks it was a question whether Indiana would be disrupted, or arrayed in support of the government, he exerted all the eloquence and personal magnetism at his command to strengthen the spirit of patriotism in that state. But those were times in which words alone were not the highest proof of loyalty, and

obtaining from Gov. Morton a commission as lieutenant, and authority to recruit a company, Comrade Crane with his command joined the 85th Indiana Volunteers, and was mustered in as lieutenant-colonel.

While stationed at Nicholasville, Ky., he was made provost marshal, and one of his first official acts was to put a stop to a sale of negroes by the sheriff. Soon afterwards a military commission was convened to test the authority of a military commander in punishing a slave-holder for shooting at one of his slaves, an act committed within the federal lines. Col. Crane was appointed judge advocate, and the commander was fully sustained.

In the winter of 1863 the 85th was sent to Tennessee, and stationed at Franklin. In the following March, while on a foraging and fighting expedition together with four other regiments, a battery of artillery, and a troop of cavalry, they fell in with Van Dorn's division of six brigades, the battle of Thompson's Station was fought, and the four regiments were captured. The men were soon exchanged, but the officers remained in Libby prison and spent nine long weeks in confinement. They were then exchanged, and Col. Crane at once returned to his regiment for duty. He remained in Tennessee with Gen. Rosecrans's army (of which the lamented Garfield was adjutant-general) till August, 1863, when he was detailed as a member of a board to examine officers as to their competency to command colored troops, who were then being enlisted at Nashville. After serving in this capacity for six months, he returned to his regiment, then at Laverne, Tenn. In the spring of 1864 they were marched over the Cumberland mountains to Chattanooga, and joined Gen. Sherman's army, being assigned to the 3d division, 20th corps, and thereafter participated in all the battles fought by Gen. Sherman to the close of the war. While at Atlanta Col. Crane was in command of the 2d brigade, 3d division, 20th corps, for several weeks.

In the fall of 1864 Col. Crane went home on a twenty days' leave of absence, and while there was nominated for the state senate, for the purpose of organizing the republican party in Sullivan county, at that time the camping ground of the Sons of Liberty, who had organized to forcibly resist the draft. Although Col. Crane preferred to return to his command, Gov.

Morton feeling that the state of Indiana was the battle-ground on which the re-election of Lincoln was to be decided, and deeming Col. Crane's personal influence and oratorical acquirements of great importance, obtained for him from the war department an extended leave of absence, together with a request from John P. Usher, then a member of Lincoln's cabinet (secretary of the interior) that he remain in the state until after the October election, which he did, the republicans gaining the victory.

After this he returned to his command and was with it constantly through Georgia, the Carolinas and so to Washington. In July, 1864, he was commissioned colonel of his regiment, but never mustered in as such.

At the close of the war Col. Crane came to New York city, married, and became a member of the law firm of Mitchell & Crane, which lasted till the death of Mitchell, his father-in-law, in 1878. He is still in practice as senior member of the firm of Crane & Lockwood. Besides being a member of Lafayette Post he belongs to the Union League, Loyal Legion, United Service Club, D. K. E. Club, and Sons of the Revolution.



JAMES LOUIS BEYEA. That the great-grandson of a sea captain who came to this country with the French troops under Lafayette should, at present writing, be the surgeon of Lafayette post, is a coincidence as pleasant as it is interesting.

James Louis Beyea was born in Goshen, N. Y., of Huguenot lineage, July 28, 1837. He attended the Farmer's Hall academy, at Goshen, N. Y., till 17, and then found employment in a bank, in Kingston. Thence he went to New York city and connected himself with a dry-goods importing house that went down in the panic of 1857. He was subsequently book-keeper for a new firm in the same business, and was thus engaged at the outbreak of the war. His sympathies were all with the cause of the north, although his employers, having a large southern trade, steadfastly opposed his enlistment in the Seventh New York, till 1862, when all trade in that quarter having been arbitrarily cut off, and in its place the firm were receiving large orders for army clothing, they withdrew their objections, and he became a member of K company and served on the three months call, during which he never missed a duty nor had an

hour's furlough. Failing to obtain a commission he did not re-enlist, but sailed for San Francisco, in the steamship Aerial, which was captured by the Confederate cruiser, Alabama. For fifteen years he was in business on the Pacific coast, ten years of the time as cashier and office head of the Pacific Iron Works, meantime joining the City Guard and serving as aid-de-camp and major on the staffs of Generals Allen and Cobb. Returning to New York in 1877, he entered the Homeopathic Medical College and graduated in 1880, the valedictorian of his class.



DR. J. L. BEYEA

He was immediately appointed clinical assistant to Prof. Doughty, and in 1883 became demonstrator of midwifery to the chair of obstetrics. He is also physician in charge to the Society for befriending children and young girls, under the care of the Sisters of the Divine Compassion; is a member of the county and state medical societies, and of the Chiron and Materia Medica clubs.

In 1884 Dr. Beyea re-enlisted in the Seventh regiment, and now holds the ten-years service medal. He was enrolled in Lafayette Post in April, 1891, and was elected its surgeon in November, 1894; re-elected in 1895. He is also a member of the Seventh Regiment veteran and Church clubs.

WILLIAM A. COPP was attending the high school in Grafton, Mass., when the call for nine months' men was made in 1862. His former teacher raised a company for the 51st Massachusetts, Colonel A. B. R. Sprague, and a number of his pupils went with him, among them young Copp. The regiment proceeded to New Berne, N. C., took part in the Goldsboro expedition and performed such other duties as were required of them in the old north state till nearly the expiration of their term of service. About that time General Dix was expected to move on

among other duties they escorted 2,300 rebel prisoners captured at Gettysburg to Fort McHenry, and assisted the city police in searching houses for concealed weapons, of which many were seized and confiscated. They next went to Harper's Ferry and did outpost duty on the Potomac, and from there to Boonsboro, Md., to intercept the retreat of Lee into Virginia. In this they were too late, and soon after they returned to their homes in Massachusetts.

Meantime young Copp's father, Andrew James Copp, had died a soldier's death at Antietam,



WILLIAM A. COPP

Richmond via the Pamunky, and the 51st reported at Fortress Monroe and went on as far as White House; but upon learning that the regiment was in light marching order, and without camp equipage, and also that the time for which the men had enlisted was nearly up, General Dix sent them back to Fortress Monroe, and requisition was made for their transportation home. On the evening of the 28th of June, Colonel Sprague hearing of the critical condition of affairs in Pennsylvania and Maryland, offered the services of the regiment to assist in turning back the invaders of northern soil. The regiment was accordingly sent to Baltimore, where

and there were reasons why the former should remain at home. He entered Yale college, graduated in 1869, and was member of the university crew during the four years course.

He studied law at Columbia Law school, was admitted to the bar in 1870 by supreme court, and has been engaged in the duties of his profession in this city continuously since.

He was one of the charter members of Lafayette post, was its second commander (1883), and again in 1894. Was chairman G. A. R. Memorial Committee, New York city, in 1885 and 1886, and has long been trustee of Grant Monument Association.

JOSEPH H. CHAPMAN was born in New York city, and comes from a family which is identified with the history of the country from the time of its earliest settlement, and has been conspicuous for love of country and loyalty to the government for over two hundred years. Sir Robert Chapman, the American ancestor of the family, was one of the forty-three proprietors who settled in the town of Saybrook, Conn., in 1648, under the grant made to Lord Say and Seal, and Lord Brook. Gen. Gardinier mentions Sir Robert Chapman very frequently in an ac-



JOSEPH H. CHAPMAN

count of the operations against the "Pequits" in and about Saybrooke during the Pequit war. On the maternal side Mr. Chapman is descended from Col. Rudyard, a prominent officer in a regiment of Scotch Highlanders.

Mr. Chapman joined the third (C) company of the 7th N. G. S. N. Y., in January, 1855, and in the spring of 1861, when Fort Sumpter was fired upon, and President Lincoln called for volunteers to defend the Union and uphold the laws, went to the front with his comrades of the Seventh, and continued in service till sometime in 1862. He also volunteered for service in the draft riots of 1863, and was in a detachment

commanded by Lieut. Murray which served under Gen. Mott during that time of trouble and apprehension for the loyal citizens of New York. He has been for many years connected with the Veterans of the Seventh, was a member of the Uniformed Battalion, keeps up his connection with the Seventh Regiment Club, and retains a general interest in the Grand Army, having been a member of Lafayette Post since September, 1888.

After leaving school Mr. Chapman spent about a year and a half in North Carolina, and was for a time, after his return, in the employ of the Erie Railroad. In 1854 he commenced his service with the Atlantic Mutual Insurance Company, and in a few years became its secretary, which position he has held for nearly thirty-five years. He has been an active member, and the treasurer of St. Luke's M. E. church, for a long time, and was for many years superintendent of its sabbath school.

HENRY O. CLARK was born in Milton, Vt., January 9, 1844. He was a clerk in Chicago when the call for nine months' troops was made, and returning to his native state, enlisted in the 13th Vermont regiment, and was mustered in as sergeant. The regiment was placed in defense of Washington, and soon had occasion to demonstrate its metal by repulsing the attack of the rebel Stuart on Fairfax Court House. The regiment was subsequently transferred to the first brigade, third division, first army corps, and was one of Stannard's brigade of five regiments that supported the artillery in the two days' fighting at Cemetery Hill, Gettysburg. On the third day of July was in line of battle on the left of the cemetery and repulsed Pickett's famous charge, the regiment at that time losing fifteen per cent in killed and wounded. While stationed at Wolf Run Shoals, on the Occoquan river, a wagon train was captured by Mosby, after which two sergeants, each with five men, were detailed from the regiment to penetrate the enemy's lines and discover what had become of it, and obtain information of any similar attempts being made. Clark was one of the sergeants so detailed. The other squad was taken prisoners, but Clark kept on and performed valuable service in preventing further damage being done at that time by the noted guerilla.

At the expiration of his term of service, Sergeant Clark was mustered out with his regiment, and engaged successfully in the mercantile business in his native town until 1871, when he removed to New York and continued in trade till 1886, when he retired. He has taken an active interest in Grand Army matters, has been aide-de-camp on the staffs of the National Commanders Veazey and Palmer; commander of Reynolds Post, and is now a member of Lafayette. He has been corresponding secretary and vice-president of the First Army Corps Association;



HENRY O. CLARK

vice-president of the 13th Vermont Regiment Association, and a member of the Society of the Army of the Potomac; has also been aide-de-camp, with rank of colonel, on the staff of Governor Ormsbee of Vermont.



THOMAS J. BARNABY was born in West Harwich, Mass.; attended the schools of his native town, and the high schools at Worcester and Newburyport. At the age of sixteen he entered the drug business and was thus employed till the call for troops in 1861, when he enlisted as lieutenant, and after assisting in recruiting Co. G, 12th Mass., Col. Fletcher Webster com-

manding, went with the regiment to Fort Warren. He was there so badly crippled with rheumatism that he was obliged to resign, and received an honorable discharge from Col. Webster and Capt. Saltmarsh, with recommendation for future appointment as first or second lieutenant. After a long illness he returned to his former employer and remained with him till the call for nine months men, when he enlisted in the 44th Mass., and served faithfully with that exceptionally fine organization till the expiration of its term of service.

This regiment, which may be said to have lineally descended from the New England Guards (organized in Boston during the war of 1812), fairly represented in its *personnel* the kind of men which formed some of the regiments the Old Bay state sent to war, having in its ranks 450 clerks, seventy-five college students, eighteen artists, three clergymen, etc., etc. It was mustered into service at Readville, September 12, 1862, Francis L. Lee, colonel, and left for the seat of war in North Carolina, October 22, by steamer. Its baptism of fire was received in an expedition sent out of New Berne for the purpose of destroying the iron-clad ram Albemarle, then building at Tarboro. On the Goldsboro and other expeditions the regiment performed such meritorious service as to be accorded the distinction of having inscribed upon its banners, by order of Gen. Foster, the names of Kingston, Whitehall, Goldsboro, Washington, N. C., and Rawl's Mill. Comrade Barnaby, who enlisted as a member of Co. G, was appointed apothecary on the surgical staff, and at Batchelor's Creek was the acting assistant surgeon. The Regimental History (printed in Boston in 1887) pleasantly recognizes the necessary and important character of the services he rendered.

Soon after the return of the regiment he went to Memphis, Tenn., to take charge of a large drug house, and while there suddenly found himself once more in the service, having been appointed hospital steward, 2d Regiment E. M., department of Memphis, by order of Col. David Ryan, W. DeLos Hawkins, adj., Dec. 19, 1864. This was made necessary by the raid of Gen. Forrest which had for its purpose the liberation of confederate prisoners, and was hotly contested, the rebel general being finally repulsed without gaining his point, although many on both sides were wounded.

After three years in the south Comrade Barnaby came to New York, managed Rushton's pharmacy for four years, and then established himself in business in Elizabeth, N. J., and there joined Ulric Dahlgren Post 25, serving as chaplain, senior vice-commander and commander. He was also a member of Washington Lodge, No. 33, treasurer of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and president of the Elizabeth Board of Trade, resigning these



THOMAS J. BARNABY

positions when he removed to New York in 1877. He is now an active member of Lafayette Post, and one of the color guard.

Comrade Barnaby traces his descent from James Barnaby, who came to New England in 1633, and his wife Lydia Bartlett, daughter of Robert Bartlett and Mary Warren, eldest daughter of Richard Warren, Robert Bartlett coming over in the ship *Anne*, in July, 1623. James Barnaby was a lineal descendant of Thomas Barnaby, of Ludlow Galop, who was treasurer to Edward IV. of England. His family seat was at Brockhampton in 1552. William Barnaby was among the crusaders to Jerusalem, as Lord Lastries.

GEORGE W. LYON was born in New York city, April 24, 1844; was educated at the public schools and the college of the City of New York; was employed in the office of a jewelry concern for about a year, and then began reading law with ex-Judge John W. Edmonds. In April, 1862, he laid aside his Blackstone and accompanied his regiment, the 37th New York State Militia, to the field, mustering April 29. While the regiment was at Annapolis he was authorized to recruit troops by Gov. Morgan, and was commissioned first lieutenant in the 131st New York, the date of muster being August 20, 1862. This regiment was at first ordered to Harper's Ferry, but, the surrender taking place, was made a part of the Banks expedition, and participated in the various movements and campaigns in the department of the Gulf, including the siege of Port Hudson. In the fall of 1863 Lieut. Lyon resigned his position to accept the adjutancy of the 2nd Louisiana (white) cavalry, subsequently consolidated with the 1st Louisiana Cavalry, Adj. Lyon retaining his position, and for some months serving as adjutant of the cavalry depot at New Orleans. On Thanksgiving morning, 1863, the regiment started on what was known as the "Sweet Potato" raid, from East Baton Rouge through Southern Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama to destroy railroad communication between the gulf ports and the interior. The expedition lasted a month, but proved a failure owing to the great rains which made the roads impassable, and forced the troops to subsist almost entirely on sweet potatoes. Their appearance on the march is said to have been more ludicrous than picturesque, the smoke of the pitch-pine fires having blackened their faces till they looked like charcoal burners, while remnants of sweet potatoes were hanging from their unkempt beards.

Shortly afterwards, Gen. Canby assuming command of the military division, appointed Adj. Lyon aide-de-camp, and acting assistant adjutant-general on his staff, which position he held during the fall and winter of 1864, including the campaign against Mobile, its capture and the surrender of Gen. Dick Taylor's army. On the arrival of Gen. Sheridan, who succeeded Gen. Canby, an order was issued directing all officers on detached duty to report to their commands. At the request of Gen. Canby, however, Gen. Sheridan retained Lyon as aide-de-camp on his

staff, and assigned him to Gen. Canby as volunteer aide. During the war Lyon served as judge advocate of thirteen general courts marshal, and at various times upon the staffs of Gens. Birge and Grover. During the siege of Port Hudson (although at that time not twenty-one) he built a military road two miles in length, connecting the extreme right and right centre of our line with two bridges, capable of sustaining the largest siege guns used in the subjection of the fortress, and the road and the bridges are there yet. He was twice recommended by Gen.



GEORGE W. LYON

Canby for promotion for services in the field. After his resignation had twice been refused on the ground that his services were too valuable to lose, it was finally accepted on October 7, 1865, to permit the recovery of his health after an attack of yellow fever. He at once returned to New York, and to the study of law in ex-Judge Peabody's office, was admitted to the bar in May, 1866, and has been in active practice ever since. In 1872 he was one of the counsel of the Committee of Seventy in their successful assault upon the Tweed ring, and with Commissioner Davenport assisted in the preparation of the reform legislation that followed. He was assistant

district attorney of the county of New York under Phelps in 1873, and Rollins till 1882. He has always taken an active and practical interest in republican politics in the county of New York, and was for some years secretary of the county committee. Was member of assembly in 1886; defeated for state senator in 1887; served as surveyor of the port under President Harrison from 1889 to 1893. At the request of Col. Strong assisted in the municipal campaign of 1894, which resulted in Mayor Strong's election; is now corporation attorney. Is a mason, a member of the military order of the Loyal Legion, the Republican Club, the Union League Club, the Bar Association, and of Lafayette Post, G. A. R.



JOHN H. DINGMAN was born March 1, 1839, near East Greenbush, Rensselaer county, N. Y. His father, Isaac C. Dingman, was one of a family of nine children, of whom the six sons as well as their father Jacob were farmers originally, but some of them later on became engaged in mechanical or professional pursuits. Judge James Dingman, of Stockport, Columbia county, N. Y., is his uncle, and Isaac C. Dingman, his father, will be remembered by the masonic fraternity of New York city as having taken its highest degrees. Adam Dingman, the first of the family in this country, was born in Haarlem, Holland, and lived in Greenbush in 1663. In 1677 he bought a farm at Kinderhook from Jacob Janse Gardenier, whose daughter Altje he also married. Inasmuch as the Patroon, Van Rensselaer, made his purchase of land, including Kinderhook, in 1630, it will be seen that the Dingman's were among the earliest settlers of New York and that Comrade Dingman is in direct descent from the Holland-French Huguenot stock. He came with his father to New York city when four years of age, graduated from the public schools when fifteen years old, attended New York College two years, and in 1855 began his career in the publishing business with Mr. Charles Scribner, Sr., who was then located on the site of the present New York *Times* building. Mr. Dingman has continued uninterruptedly with this one establishment ever since, and is known prominently and favorably by the book trade throughout the whole country. He makes

friends easily and keeps them permanently, and works enthusiastically in the various organizations with which he is connected. He is a member of the Brooklyn Young Republican Club, the Brooklyn Institute, Lafayette Post 140, G. A. R., the Aldine Club of New York, and others. For seven years, and especially during the two Low campaigns, he was a member of the execu-

believes in a cheerful Christianity. Dolefulness has no place in it in his estimation.

Lieutenant Dingman enlisted as a private in Company B, 37th Regiment, before its formation as a regiment, and was in a few weeks elected corporal, and then sergeant. He went, May 28, 1862, with the regiment, under Colonel Charles Roome, in its three months' campaign, to Camp



JOHN H. DINGMAN

tive committee of the Brooklyn Young Republican Club, and was one of the three of that committee who would not desert the committee or the club during the Blaine campaign.

Lieutenant Dingman has also a strong religious nature, and from early life has worked earnestly in that field. When but nineteen years old he was elected superintendent of a Sunday school in New York, of which Rev. Drs. Bethune and Vannest were pastors, and has continued in other places in the same congenial work. He

Belger, Baltimore, Md. With his captain, A. M. Smith, he worked laboriously in the enlistment of men for that campaign, and the regiment departed with full numbers.

On June 18, 1863, the regiment departed again from New York on its second period of service. This, the Pennsylvania campaign, though of but thirty days' duration, was in detail full of all the excitements of war, and during the entire month was in arduous and dangerous service. It arrived at Harrisburgh amidst the tremendous excite-

ment of the invasion of Pennsylvania by Lee's army. Second Lieutenant Dingman, whose appointment as such was announced in general orders at "Camp Seymour," opposite Harrisburgh, June 24, took charge of the men who were digging the rifle pits at that point during the night of June 29, and the next morning, without taking sleep, moved with the regiment toward Carlisle, meeting with the regiment, at Sporting Hill, his first baptism of fire with coolness and unflinching courage. A bullet from the rifle of a rebel sharpshooter passed into a board of the fence near which he and his captain, John Stevenson, were standing, and when the captain suggested that they had better move, he smilingly replied that "Lightning never strikes twice in the same spot." A second shot coming immediately, however, and within a few inches of their heads, led the other to say, "but it comes mighty near it," and they moved a few feet, though still fully exposed to the rebel's aim. Towards the end of that day, after a march of over ten miles under a scorching sun, he was one of fifteen of Company B, the color company, who, ahead of the rest of the regiment, carried the colors into Carlisle and placed them upon the court house. The rebels, 9,000 mounted infantry under General Stuart, were slowly retiring from Carlisle towards Gettysburg, and they captured a few of our men. The 37th, however, captured some of theirs in return. At 8 o'clock that evening Lieutenant Dingman was in conversation with General William F. Smith ("Baldy Smith"), when there was brought before the latter a rebel, with a flag of truce and a message demanding the surrender of the troops in Carlisle. "Tell your general to go to h—l, I never surrender," was the profane but emphatic answer, and the rebel was sent back with haste. He must have signaled the fruitlessness of his errand in some way, for he had hardly been released before there came crashing into the columns of the court house, near which the regiment was stationed, a cannon ball, which seemed to carry with it the anger of the ungratified "rebs."

Lieutenant Dingman served through this campaign, as through the former one, with an earnestness borne of his love for the Union, and continued with the 37th for several years after the war was over, but resigned before the regiment was united with and merged into the famous "71st."

GEORGE M. CURTIS was born in Worcester, Mass., in 1843, of Irish, Scotch and Italian ancestry. He was educated in the Worcester high school, and at the Baptist academy. While hardly more than a school boy he yielded to the patriotic impulses of the hour, and in 1861 went to the front as a volunteer in the 3d Battalion, Massachusetts Rifles, under Major, afterwards Major-General Charles Devens, and served with credit till the expiration of his term of enlistment. He then entered the law office of Hon. John W. Ashmead, in New York city, and by reporting



GEORGE M. CURTIS

for the newspapers and contributions to literary periodicals managed to support himself till fitted for examination and admission to the bar. He was barely twenty-one when first elected to the assembly of the state of New York, being one of the youngest representatives New York city ever sent to Albany. He was re-elected to the same office in 1865, and during both terms attracted special attention by his eloquence in debate, which was only exercised upon important matters, particularly in defense of Governor Seymour from political traducers. In 1865-6 he was assistant corporation attorney of New York city, and in 1867 was elected judge of the Marine (now City) court, being a very young man to occupy

so important a position on the bench, which he did for six years. Declining a renomination, he entered into the active practice of the law which he has continued to the present time, with marked success, having, as a recent sketch says, "argued cases in nine states of the Union, saved thirty-eight persons from the scaffold and, on account of his remarkable success in the litigation of estates, become known as the 'will smasher.' He is the

was in the battles of Yorktown, Hanover Courthouse, Gaines Mill, Malvern Hill, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Aldie, Gettysburg, Jones Cross-roads, Rappahannock Station, Mine Run, The Wilderness, Spottsylvania, North Anna, Bethesda Church, Weldon Railroad, Petersburg, and many minor engagements.

At Rappahannock, November 7, 1863, he received a bullet, which he carries to the present



ROBERT H. McCORMIC

only lawyer at the New York bar who ever broke a will by verdict of a jury."

Comrade Curtis joined Lafayette Post in September, 1891.

ROBERT H. McCORMIC was born October 25, 1839. His army life began September 1, 1861, when he enlisted as a private in the 44th New York, widely known as the famous Ellsworth Regiment, named, of course, after the young hero whose life was so early sacrificed in the great struggle. Private McCormic was promoted to sergeant, sergeant-major, first lieutenant, and then captain, under which rank he was mustered out at the expiration of his term of service, at Albany, October 11, 1864. He

time, and at Bethesda Church, June 3, 1864, he was also wounded.

Captain McCormic joined Lew Benedict Post 5, Albany, May 9, 1868; was transferred about ten years ago, and is now a member of Lew O. Morris Post 121, of the same city. Besides other offices in the order, he has been junior vice-commander and assistant adjutant-general of the department, and aide on the department and national staffs and, as he was a good soldier, he is also a good Grand Army man, active, enthusiastic, and loyal always. He is widely known, and just as widely liked. No man in the department is better informed as to its practical workings and personnel than Comrade McCormic.

ANTHONY CLINCHY was born in Ireland August 26, 1842. The family came to New York while he was an infant. In 1867 his father, a man liberal in his ideas and methods, died and the boy, leaving school, was for three years in a wool house and then apprenticed to the plumbing trade. Meantime he had joined Company D, 8th N. Y. militia, which regiment responded to the first call for troops. They were stationed first at Annapolis and then at the Relay House. When the 6th Massachusetts was fired upon in Baltimore the 8th New York was sent to report to General



ANTHONY CLINCHY

Butler, company D being part of the detail. They remained a few days till quiet was restored, then returned to headquarters and were soon sent to Georgetown and to Arlington Heights, where they remained till the first battle of Bull Run, in which they participated, losing a number of men, among them some of Clinchy's most intimate friends and acquaintances. After the retreat the regiment returned to Arlington and, their term of service having expired, were mustered out, Clinchy bringing home with him the germs of typhoid fever, from which he was laid up for a long time.

In 1862 he began business for himself as a plumber, in which line he has been engaged up

to the present time with highly satisfactory results. He has made many friends among the prosperous and influential, and has been actively engaged in democratic politics. On the 30th of March, 1892, he was appointed by Governor Flower state inspector of gas meters, and a searching investigation by a legislative committee, instituted by his political opponents, served to bring forth the most flattering testimonials as to his ability and character, and letters from many republicans asking for his retention in office.

He is a thirty-second degree Mason, member of the Mystic Shrine, of the 8th Regiment Veterans, Veteran Firemen's Association, New York Democratic Club, Tammany Hall, Columbian Order, Hoboken Turtle Club, Masonic Veterans and Craftsmen's Club. He is also a member of Lafayette Post.



HENRY H. ADAMS. There is reason to suppose that the military ardor and patriotic spirit which early burned in the heart of Comrade Henry H. Adams were part of his inheritance; for being born of the famous Massachusetts family in one of whose cradles two presidents were rocked, he can point with pride to a father who was a soldier in the war of 1812; to a grandfather who responded to the alarm at Lexington,

"—where the embattl'd farmers stood,
And fired the shot heard round the world;"

and to another ancestor killed in King Philip's war—not to speak of a line of descent through Sir John ap Adam, of England, and Princess Gundred, back to William the Conqueror.

Be this as it may, Comrade Adams who was born in Collamer, Ohio, in 1844, was so stirred by the assault upon Fort Sumpter, that he could scarcely wait till he had reached the requisite age but exerted himself in recruiting other men for the service till Nov. 15, 1862, when he enlisted in the 125th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, for three years. He was offered a commission of second lieutenant, but owing to delicate health at the beginning of his service, was induced by Col. Emerson Opdycke to accept a position in the department of public mails, on detached service. By special permission he joined his command at intervals, and in the battle of Franklin, Tenn., according to the testimony of officers of his regiment, he led the advance in the charge

across the "Little Harpeth," dislodging Van Dorn's forces, then occupying the south bank. In order to do this, the 125th was ordered in the keen winter weather to "double quick" across the river where the water was up to the arm-pits. The confederates were successfully driven out of Franklin, and the 125th stood on picket from three in the afternoon till nine next morning with their wet clothes frozen on them.

with guerillas, bushwackers and rebel raiders. Young Adams, with an escort of ten scouts, made tri-weekly trips by night through the wilderness, and over Raccoon Mountains, frequently encountering the rebel forces and bands of guerillas. On September 20, 1864, while in this service, he was captured at Athens, Ala., by Gen. Forest, and with seventeen men taken to Cahaba, Ala., and there remained for three



HENRY H. ADAMS

Comrade Adams also participated in the battles of Chicamauga, Rocky Face Ridge, Resaca, New Hope Church, and Kenesaw Mountain. During the operations of the 4th corps at New Hope Church and Kenesaw, he did valuable service in charge of the courier lines of communication between these points and Big Shanty, the latter being the seat of supplies. This service was one of great danger, the army being stationed forty miles southwest of Big Shanty, and the intervening country infested

months a prisoner, enduring untold hardships, the only food being black mouldy corn meal that had been condemned as horse feed. In November he was exchanged at Vicksburgh, and reported for duty on the morning of the battle of Nashville. He served the remainder of his time on special duty, acting as aide on the staff of Gen. Emerson Opdycke. Owing to impairment of health consequent upon his sojourn in southern prisons, he was discharged March 10, 1865, at Nashville, Tenn.

Engaging in the iron business in Cleveland, O., and in ore and grain transportation on the upper lakes, he remained in that city till 1882, when he removed to New York where he is identified with important iron interests.

Joining Lafayette Post, 140, in 1891, he immediately gave practical evidence of being embodied with the spirit of enterprise which is characteristic of that organization, and which has found in him a most intelligent promoter, as well as representative. Being in Paris on Decoration day, 1892, he was delegated by the post to decorate the grave of Lafayette, and delivered an address and carried out the details of the ceremony with such brilliancy of effect as to win the complimentary approval of representatives of the French government, the American minister, descendants of Lafayette, and of practically the whole American colony there assembled.

In the now national movements which originated with Lafayette Post, for placing the American flag on the public schools, and for the introduction of the military drill, Comrade Adams has been especially active and especially successful. Not only in his own city and through the west has he made able speeches in favor of the idea, but it was through his efforts that a conference of governors was held in New York in January, 1895, for the purpose of obtaining concerted action in the several states towards the introduction of the drill in the public schools. For this far-reaching innovation much credit must always devolve upon H. H. Adams, commander (in 1895) of Lafayette Post, 140, and history may yet record, that much as he and his comrades anticipated from its influence in the promotion of the highest Americanism among the rising generation, they "builted better than they knew."

HENRY CLAY COOKE was born in Waterville, Oneida County, N. Y., September 10, 1842. After attending the Oneida and Jefferson county public schools he was clerk for a while in a drug and grocery store in Brownsville. He enlisted March 9, 1861, in Co. K, 35th New York, for two years and went with the regiment to the front, where it formed part of the Army of the Potomac during its term of service, participating in the battles of Cedar Mountain, Groveton, second Bull Run, Manassas, Chantilla,

South Mountain, Antietam and Fredericksburgh, and was mustered out at Elmira, June 11th, 1863.

After a visit home young Cooke went to Detroit and enlisted in the reorganization of the 11th Michigan infantry, Colonel Keegan commanding. Was made first lieutenant of Co. B, and after arriving at Chattanooga under General Steadman, his regimental quartermaster was made brigade quartermaster, and Cooke made assistant quartermaster of the regiment. Soon



HENRY CLAY COOKE

afterwards the regiment was ordered to report to General Thomas at Nashville, and became part of the second brigade, army of the Cumberland, with headquarters at Cleveland, Tenn., holding the front from there to Knoxville. Lieutenant Cooke was detailed as assistant adjutant general on the brigade staff, Colonel La Fever commanding, and served in that capacity till the brigade was disbanded in 1865, when he was ordered to report to Major-General Stoneman at Knoxville, and made assistant quartermaster of the post. After settlement with the government he returned to Detroit and was mustered out September 27, 1865. He returned to Utica and on a visit to a married sister in New York determined to locate in that city, which he

did, in the tea business. Subsequently he went into the military clothing trade, in which line he supplied the state of New York with uniforms for the National Guard. He is now in the children's clothing business. Is a Mason, a member of Glen Ridge Club at Glen Ridge, N. J., where he resides, and a member of Lafayette Post.



O. H. LA GRANGE was born in Oswego county, N. Y., 3d April, 1837, and imperfectly educated by his own exertions. He went to Kansas in 1856 to aid in opposing slavery in that territory, remained a year, took a boy's part in the border troubles, and brought home the Sharp's rifle, which he had retained when all others of his party were disarmed by United States troops on entering the territory. Was indicted with others in the United States district court for Wisconsin in 1860 for aiding in the rescue of S. M. Booth from confinement in the custom house at Milwaukee, for violation of the Fugitive Slave law, but was never arrested under this indictment, which was *nolle prosequi* by the United States attorney appointed by Lincoln. He enlisted in Co. "B," Fourth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, April 19, 1861, was chosen Captain, promoted to Major First Wisconsin Cavalry, and went through the grades to Brevet Brigadier-General. He twice declined the latter grade, and commanded a Cavalry Brigade for nearly two years as Colonel, while he was junior in rank as in years to many officers in the Cavalry who only commanded regiments. He had five horses killed and two wounded under him in battle but was never wounded. He received in person the thanks of Generals E. M. McCook, Mitchell, Foster, Rosecrans, Garfield, Thomas and Wilson, for service in the field; was one of fifty union officers placed under fire at Charleston to stop bombardment.

He was admitted to the bar of the Court of Appeals, New York, in 1866, Supreme Court of California, 1867, and Supreme Court of the United States in 1869. Was District Attorney for Alameda county, California, 1868-1869, and convicted every prisoner that he had caused to be indicted.

Was presidential elector at large for California in 1868, and superintendent of the mint of the

United States at San Francisco from 1869 until 1878, while that mint coined \$200,000,000 with a less percentage for wastage than ever before sustained there in the manipulation of the precious metals. He aided in the repeal of the coinage charge on gold, and the great reduction of all charges to depositors. Disbursed millions of public money and settled his accounts without any loss to the government. Has since had experience as a miner, banker and merchant in a mining camp, and more recently has tried im-



O. H. LA GRANGE

portant cases successfully in the Supreme Court against leaders of the New York Bar.

Was recommended in 1889 to President Harrison for appointment as Assistant Attorney General of the United States by Senators Leland Stanford of California, William M. Evarts of New York, C. K. Davis of Minnesota, John C. Spooner of Wisconsin, and many representatives, besides John C. New, R. G. Ingersoll, Wager Swayne, John F. Dillon, Samuel L. M. Barlow, Chauncey M. Depew and General W. T. Sherman. Is at present writing (1896) fire commissioner of the city of New York. Joined Lafayette Post 140.

EDMUND HENDRICKS was born in New York city, Sept. 16, 1834, and is descended from the earliest Dutch settlers of this locality. He enjoyed the privileges and benefits of the schools of that city till the age of fifteen, when he entered the Archimides iron works situated at foot of North Moore St., North River, N. Y., that he might gain a practical knowledge of the management and construction of machinery, his father believing that, in the business for which he

by fire in 1874, but rebuilt on an enlarged and much improved plan, and stand to-day as a monument to the enterprise and success of the now existing firm of which Mr. Hendricks is the senior partner.

Comrade Hendricks enlisted in Co. F, 7th Regiment N. Y. State militia, on June 19, 1862, and being mustered into the United States service did duty with the regiment wherever they were called to serve, in garrison at Fort Federal



EDMUND HENDRICKS

was intended, such a course would be of far more value than a classical education. After leaving the machine shop he was engaged for a time in mercantile pursuits, and then entered the office of Hendricks Brothers, a firm established by his great-grandfather in 1764, and the business of which has been successfully conducted by four generations in a direct line, the house always standing among the most important of the metal trade in the United States. In 1812 the firm established copper-rolling mills at Belleville, N. J., for the purpose of rolling copper plates for the government. They were destroyed

Hill, Baltimore, and Frederick City, and also during the memorable draft riots in New York city. He became a member of Lafayette Post August 11, 1886, and has always been an active and useful member, ever ready to assist with substantial aid any movement in which the post is interested. He is also a member of the Union Club, New York Club, Seventh Regiment Veteran Club, Chamber of Commerce, Metropolitan Museum of Art and of Natural History, besides being connected with numerous benevolent institutions. Unostentatious in all his charities no needy comrade ever applied to him in vain for help.

MEREDITH L. JONES was born in the city of Carbondale, Luzerne (now Lackawanna) county, Pennsylvania; was educated at the Luzerne Presbyterian institute, in the Wyoming Valley; afterwards read law with his father, a leading lawyer of the Luzerne bar, and then residing at Scranton, Pa. After practicing his profession in Scranton and Wilkes Barre, in 1876 he entered upon a successful practice in the city of New York, where he still resides. His parents were Hon. Lewis Jones and Anna Maria Jones (nee Gibson). Hon. Lewis Jones was a



MEREDITH L. JONES

leading lawyer and successful business man, and was for some time on the bench, as Judge of the district, afterwards incorporated into the county of Lackawanna. On both sides Mr. Jones sprung from revolutionary stock.

During the summer and fall of 1862, Governor Curtin conferred upon Mr. Jones authority to recruit men for the regiments then forming at Harrisburgh; and he also received authority from General Roy Stone, who at the time was forming his famous Bucktail Brigade. Armed with these papers, Mr. Jones made a canvass of his native county, and soon returned with a fine body of men, who were enlisted in the 149th Regiment of Pennsylvania volunteers, into which

regiment he himself was at the same time mustered as second lieutenant of Co. E. He was afterwards promoted to first lieutenant, and was assigned to the command of Co. B, this regiment. The regiment was on duty for six months in and about the city of Washington, and in February, 1863, was moved to the front and attached to the second brigade, third division, first army corps, Army of the Potomac.

Lieutenant Jones was at once detailed to act as aide on the staff of Major-General Abner Doubleday, and served with him actively through the Chancellorsville and Gettysburg campaigns, and when General Kenley took command of the division, Mr. Jones was retained on the division staff, until the fall of 1863, when he was returned to his regiment and assigned to the command of Co. B.

On the morning of the first day of the battle of Gettysburg, Lieutenant Jones was sent forward with Major E. P. Halstead, to communicate with General Reynolds, and joined him in the seminary grounds before the infantry arrived. Lieutenant Jones was immediately sent back for a battery, and at once brought up Hall's Maine battery, and thus achieved the proud distinction of opening the great battle of the first day.

He was actively engaged the whole three days of the battle, and during the terrific cannonade of the afternoon of the third day his horse was shot almost to pieces, Lieutenant Jones escaping by a miracle as it were.

Lieutenant Jones has the distinction of honorable mention in General Doubleday's report of the battle of Gettysburg, published in the official records of "The War of The Rebellion," and also several times in General Doubleday's History of the Battle of Gettysburg.

Governor Curtin sent for Lieutenant Jones and offered him the command of one of the new regiments forming at Harrisburg; but by reason of pledges given his men when they recruited with him, he refused any other promotion than that he could acquire in his own regiment.

Late in the fall of 1863 Lieutenant Jones was prostrated by a severe attack of typhoid pneumonia, which nearly cost him his life, and from which he never sufficiently recovered to resume active duty in the army, and was so honorably discharged as first lieutenant, March 18, 1864.

It may be just to say that in 1861 Lieutenant Jones' patriotic impulse led him to form, with

another, a drill company in Scranton, to prepare himself and associates for the service, which company, under the masterly hand of Colonel Vincent M. Wilcox,* afterwards of the 132d regiment, Pennsylvania volunteers, was brought to a state of great proficiency, and out of its ranks forty-eight became commissioned officers in the army, and some of high rank. Lieutenant Jones feels proud of his part in inaugurating this movement, and in getting this body of men together.

Comrade Jones, on May 10, 1864, married Miss Delia Silliman Mitchell, daughter of Colonel Wm. Minot Mitchell, a prominent lawyer of

member of the Sons of the Revolution, Kane lodge 454, F. & A. M., the Colonial club, the west side Republican club, and other organizations.



JOHN FRED. PIERSON, a native of New York city, born February 25, 1839, began his military service as a member of the engineer corps of the 7th regiment, N. Y. S. M., early in 1860, and was soon afterwards placed on detached service as aide-de-camp on the staff of General William Hall, commanding the brigade to which the 7th was attached.



JOHN FRED. PIERSON

New York city, and formerly public administrator of the city of New York. She was also grand-daughter of the late William Silliman, a prominent chancery lawyer of the city of New York in his day. Mr. Jones has one daughter, Annie Meredith, now the wife of George Flint Warren, jr., Esq., of the law firm of Anderson, Anderson & Warren, of New York city.

Comrade Jones became a member of Lafayette Post in June, 1887; was elected junior vice-commander in 1889, and senior vice-commander in 1890; has also served on National and Department staff, and as delegate to department encampment and on important committees, etc. Is also a

When the war broke out Private Pierson began to recruit a cavalry company, and on May 26, 1861, was commissioned captain of Company H, 1st New York infantry volunteers; was promoted major, July 20, lieutenant colonel, September 10, 1861; colonel, October 9, 1862; brevet brigadier general U. S. Volunteers, March 13, 1865. Served in Berry's brigade of Kearney's division in Hooker's corps, participating in the battles of Big Bethel, Hampton Roads, Fair Oaks, Peach Orchard, Glendale, Charles City Cross-roads, Malvern Hill, second Bull Run, Chantilly, Fredericksburg, first and second battles, and Chancellorsville. Was wounded at

* See pages 31-2. Comrade Wilcox died May 9, 1893, as these pages were passing through the press.

Glendale, Va., June 30, 1862, where he had his horse killed under him; was taken prisoner at Chantilly September, 1862, and was confined for several months in Libby prison; at Chancellorsville, May 2, 1863, was shot through the chest and severely wounded, but continued in command of his regiment.

When the regiment returned from the war it was received with distinguished honors by the citizens of New York city and a grand banquet given in its honor. As many of its officers, besides Colonel Pierson, belonged to the 7th regiment, N. G. S. N. Y., this regiment turned out in full to meet and escort it. At a war meeting held at Cooper institute December 3, 1863, Colonel Pierson was appointed a commissioner to visit the army of the Potomac for the purpose of promoting re-enlistments among those regiments whose terms of service were about to expire, and was highly successful and much commended.

In June, 1863, during the invasion of Pennsylvania, he accompanied the New York militia to Harrisburg, serving under General William Hall as chief of staff, and quarter-master of the 3d brigade, N. Y. S. M., continuing on duty sixty days.

For distinguished service on the battle-field and during the war General Pierson received many letters of commendation from his superior officers, from which extracts from only two can find place here. General S. B. Hayman, U. S. A., commanding the 3d brigade, writes:

"Perhaps no colonel has more fully illustrated his capacity to enforce discipline through energy, and moral as well as physical courage, than yourself, and even in this noted division it would be difficult to name your equal as a tactician."

General H. G. Berry, commanding 1st division, under date of December 29, 1862, writes:

"I am happy to say that through your exertions the First Regiment is a model of discipline. The men are happy and contented, and efficient to a high degree, and I consider the regiment one of the best in the service."

General Pierson commanded the first volunteer troops sent by the state of New York to the war, and he was undoubtedly the youngest officer of his rank in our army at times commanding a brigade.

In 1866, he became a member of the firm of Pierson & Co., established by his grand-father in New York city in 1787, and which has continued under the original name for over a century with credit unimpaired.

Comrade Pierson joined Lafayette Post in February, 1890, and although never an aspirant for office, has taken an active part in all movements and measures which have originated with the post, and rendered efficient aid by his wise councils and liberal contributions.



CHARLES J. WRIGHT enlisted as a private in the 16th New Hampshire Volunteers and was promoted to fifth sergeant of Co. G, sergeant-major and commissioned second lieutenant of Co. K, "for gallant and meritorious service."



CHARLES J. WRIGHT

He was commissioned lieutenant-colonel 39th U. S. Colored Troops, April 19, 1864, and commanded the 27th U. S. Colored Troops in the campaign of the Wilderness, was wounded in the assault on the fortifications around Petersburg; again quite seriously at Fort Fisher, and was breveted colonel on March 13, 1865, "for gallant and meritorious services during the war."

Colonel Wright is a member of the Loyal Legion, Sons of the Revolution, Society of the Army of the Potomac and United Service Club; he is a graduate of Hobart College, with the degree of A. M., and president of the New York Military Academy at Cornwall-on-Hudson, N. Y.



JOHN C. SHOTTS

JOHN C. SHOTTS, commander of the Department of New York in 1894, was born August 11, 1844, in West Farms (now the 23d ward of the city of New York). He enlisted at Yonkers April 16, 1861, for two years, and was sworn into the United States service May 22 following as a member of Co. A, 17th New York Volunteers, known as the Westchester Chasseurs. He was discharged June 2, 1863, in New York, having carried a musket in the ranks through all the term for which he volunteered. He was at the siege of Yorktown, and engaged in the battles of Mechanicville, Hanover Court House, Cold Harbor, Whitehouse Junction, Second Bull Run, Antietam, Sheperdstown, Fredericksburg, Richard's Ford, Chancellorville, and United States Ford. At the battle of Hanover Court House the 17th New York and 83d Pennsylvania captured two guns belonging to Latham's celebrated New Orleans battery, which were the first guns taken in battle by the Army of the Potomac. The charge of the 17th New York was very handsomely made, their superior drill being manifest in the solid front which they presented in moving forward. Comrade Shott's company (A), being on the skirmish line, he was one of the first to reach and take possession of the gun in behalf of the company and regiment. Wherever placed he proved himself to be of the stuff which makes good soldiers, and which saved the Union.

After his discharge Comrade Shotts went into the market business, and since 1883 has been engaged in the wholesale commission business, operating at present three refrigerator houses, one each at Yonkers, Tarrytown and Mount Vernon. He has served one five year term as water commissioner of the city of Yonkers, and has recently been appointed for another five years.

Comrade Shotts is a member of Kitching Post No. 60, having been mustered in 1879. He was elected commander of the Post in 1880, and in 1886 was re-elected and served eight consecutive terms. He has for several years been the chairman of the Yonkers memorial committee; in 1893 was a member of the department council of administration, and on February 22, 1894, was elected department commander and held office till May 16, 1895. The fidelity with which he attended to his duties is suggested by the fact that in their discharge he journeyed over 22,000 miles and received the fraternal grasp

from 20,000 comrades. His sympathy with the private soldier led him to much active endeavor in the halls of legislation, which was not without result.

CHARLES W. SPOONER was born in Cincinnati, O., in 1845. He received his appointment as Acting Master's Mate in the volunteer navy of the United States, June 1, 1863, and was



CHARLES W. SPOONER

assigned to the Flagship "Moose," commanded by Lieutenant-Commander LeRoy Fitch, commanding the Ohio Fleet, under Rear Admiral David D. Porter, commanding the Mississippi Squadron. He was promoted to Acting Ensign February 12, 1864, and assigned as executive officer aboard the United States steamer "Reindeer," which vessel he soon after commanded. He took an active part in the engagements at and above Buffington Island, in pursuit of General John Morgan and his band of marauders in their attempted raid into Indiana and Ohio, which resulted in the capture of that famous rebel, and the destruction of his forces; also in

the engagements with the confederate batteries below Nashville in co-operating with General Thomas against the advancing forces of General Hood, destroying his pontoons, and attacking and silencing his batteries; conveying troops from point to point on the Tennessee river, and capturing transports, all of which contributed largely to the demoralization of Hood's army. He was actively engaged during 1863-4 in patrolling the Ohio, Tennessee, Cumberland and upper Mississippi rivers, in keeping open navigation, putting down guerillas, protecting loyal citizens and destroying the property of disloyal persons.

At the close of the war in 1865, he resigned his commission and entered upon the study of the law. He graduated from the Cincinnati Law school in 1867, and from the law department of Harvard college in 1868. He practiced his profession in Cincinnati until 1870, and then left for Europe on a three years' tour of study and travel. Upon his return in 1873, he became a member of the New York Bar, and has since then uninterruptedly practiced his profession in New York city, where he now resides. He is a Comrade of the Alexander Hamilton Post, G. A. R., and a Companion in the New York Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, in both of which organizations he takes an active interest.

United States quartermaster at Camp Chase, and was wagon-master there for three months. On the 2d of January, 1863, he was commissioned master's mate of the *Prairie Bird* No. 11, of the Mississippi gunboat squadron, carrying 100 men, 12 officers and 8 guns. Three months later, after competitive examination, he was promoted to acting ensign and, owing to the accidental death of the captain, was executive officer for a year. He took an active part in the siege of Vicksburg, where he was detailed to command the



WILLIAM M. ERNST

WILLIAM M. ERNST. Various methods were adopted during the war to show appreciation of ability and meritorious conduct, but it was not often that this was done through revoking a resignation after it had been accepted for several months, as was the case with Comrade William M. Ernst, a native of Cincinnati, born March 24, 1842, who first enlisted in July, 1861, in Co. A, 34th Ohio (Piatt's Zouave regiment), commanded by a brother of Don Piatt. The regiment was sent to West Virginia and the companies were detached, Co. A remaining at Winfield all winter. Ernst having been promoted from corporal to second lieutenant, was sent to Cincinnati on recruiting service, in which he was so successful as to earn a first lieutenantcy and was assigned to the 52d Ohio. He soon after resigned and joined his father, who was

mortar boats which were used in shelling the city. An incident that he recalls with interest was the ruse employed a night or two after the rebels had captured a ram and two other boats from us. It was very dark when suddenly the enemy discerned a mysterious looking craft bearing down upon the city. She was silent, but was thought all the more dangerous on that account, and every battery that could be trained upon her opened fire, while the infantry were hurried to the river bank and blazed away as rapidly as possible. She neither replied nor stopped, but moved straight on, while the whole city was ablaze with the firing of the rebel guns and the

burning of the captured ram and other boats, affording just the needed light for our artillery to shell the town. Later on the silent vessel was picked up by our boys below the city. She was an old barge with barrels for smokestacks, guns made of wood, and a pile of coal in the bottom furnishing the smoke. Curiously enough only two shots from the enemies batteries had struck her, although she was riddled with bullets.

A much sadder circumstance was the sinking of the large river steamer B. F. Runyan, with a portion of the 8th Michigan Cavalry and many refugee men, women and children, 750 in all. Ensign Ernst and his crew saved all they could, working all night to minister to their distress and burying 278 bodies that were recovered.

After Vicksburg Ensign Ernst went up the Yazoo river and discovered Fort Pemberton that had prevented the gunboat fleet from passing through the bayou to the rear of the city. The fort was made of cotton, covered with earth. The cotton was confiscated by the *Prairie Bird* and another boat, the crews of which received prize money. On the return trip to Yazoo City the other boat was captured and the *Prairie Bird*, being unable to work both her engines, could not go to her relief and she was burned. The *Bird* also had to lay up, and was finally extricated by the gunboat *Vindicator*.

At Gaine's Landing a masked battery of eight guns opened on the *Prairie Bird*, putting twenty-six shots through her in about fifteen minutes. Two shrapnels burst in the first division, which was commanded by Ernst. Of the nineteen men composing this division five were killed and the rest all wounded except one. Ernst was struck on the chest by a splinter of wood, and after his wound was dressed commanded his battery while sitting in a chair and till the enemy was driven off.

In June, 1865, Ernst resigned, returned to Cincinnati and was out of the service till August, when, as stated, his resignation was revoked and he was ordered back to duty. It seems that it was the intention to fit out cruisers for river service, and the ablest men that could be found were to be designated for their command, but although the idea was subsequently abandoned by the government, the very unusual compliment was none the less real. Comrade Ernst was finally discharged December 24, 1865.

He joined Lafayette Post in May, 1885.

JOHN B. JOHNSON was born in Middlesex county, New Jersey, March 23, 1841; has been for thirty-two years in New York in the building material business and in real estate. He is a prominent member of the Knights of Honor, Royal Good Fellows, F. & A. M., and of Alexander Hamilton Post, G. A. R.

He enlisted in September, 1861, in the 4th New York Independent Battery and was afterwards transferred to the 5th New York Independent Battery in December, 1863, and pro-



JOHN B. JOHNSON

moted to second lieutenant. He was in the Army of the Potomac from its organization, and participated in all its battles until after the battle of Spotsylvania Court House in May, 1864, when his battery, the 5th N. Y. Independents, was sent to the defense of Washington for about six weeks, and for a short time he was in command of Fort Tillinghast. From there he joined General Sheridan in the Shenandoah Valley and was engaged in all the battles that took place in that campaign. He was promoted on the battlefield of Gettysburg for meritorious conduct. Was wounded at the battle of Williamsburg, Va., May 5, 1862. Was honorably mustered out on December 10, 1864, after three years and three months of about as hard service as fell to the lot of many of the Boys in Blue.

GEORGE H. DEAN was born in Putnam county, N. Y., where he lived till he was sixteen years old. He afterwards engaged in the manufacturing business in Bloomfield, N. J., where he was living when the war broke out. Embued with patriotic ardor he promptly enlisted in July, 1861, in the First New York Mounted Rifles, under the command of the gallant Colonel Kilpatrick, and before proceeding to the front had used his influence so successfully as to have enlisted seventeen others for his company, a



GEORGE H. DEAN

service which was recognized by promoting him to quarter-master sergeant of Co. B, when the company was mustered into the United States service under the command of General Wool, at Fortress Monroe, August 31, 1861. He was transferred to Co. A September 10, 1861; appointed battalion quarter-master sergeant January 6, 1862; regimental commissary sergeant March 21, 1862, and then commissioned captain by Governor Edwin E. Morgan.

Companies A and B served much of the time during the early part of the war as body-guard to General Wool, reconnoitering and making raids into the enemy's company, capturing live stock and stores that were necessary for the maintenance of the troops. They entered Nor-

folk and were there three months, taking part in the capture of Suffolk. Comrade Dean was engaged with his regiment in many skirmishes against the enemy's outposts, and was faithful in the discharge of every duty that devolved upon him till the expiration of his term of service.

Returning to New York, he engaged in the real estate business, which he has conducted successfully to the present time. He is a member of Alexander Hamilton Post No. 182, and takes a heart-felt interest in all that pertains to the welfare of the Grand Army of the Republic.



WATSON A. FOX was born in Erie county, N. Y., January 17, 1819; was educated in Buffalo, and serving as a clerk for fifteen years became well acquainted with the grocery and ship chandlery business, in 1853 went into that branch of trade as a member of the firm of Fox & Bruce, which lasted for ten years; then engaged in the transportation business, owning and sailing ten vessels and three steamers on the great lakes and thirty-one canal boats on the Erie canal. He was one of the organizers of the Buffalo Board of Trade.

In 1854 he became active in military affairs and in connection with Col. John M. Griffith, Lieut.-Col. John Bliss, Capt. Daniel B. Bidwell and Capt. William F. Rogers and others organized the 74th Regiment, N. G. S. N. Y., Fox being major, afterwards lieutenant-colonel and finally colonel. In 1861, having on his roll about 700 men, tendered to Governor Morgan the services of the regiment for government service, which were accepted, and the command ordered to move May 1, 1861. This, however, was countermanded and the regiment assigned to duty in Buffalo and along the frontier line, thus preventing several attempts of rebels in Canada from crossing the Niagara river into the state of New York at Buffalo. In June, 1863, the regiment was ordered to Harrisburg and Mount Union, Pa., for the Gettysburg campaign, and there mustered into the United States service, and at that place guarded several iron bridges of the Pennsylvania railroad and an aqueduct of the Pennsylvania canal, which crosses over the Juniata river at that point, and which the rebel forces had been sent to destroy. Their object was defeated by the alertness of Colonel Fox.

In July he was ordered to Clear Springs, Md., to hold a pass over the mountains leading from Boonsboro to that place. General Kelley was then on his way to the pass to unite our forces and prevent Lee from crossing the Potomac. Colonel Fox found the pass held by about 600 Rebel cavalry, repulsed them and held the position until the arrival of General Kelley with 10,000 United States troops.

He was next ordered to Loudon and there received a telegram from General Couch directing



WATSON A. FOX

him and his command to proceed with all possible dispatch to New York city, where they arrived July 14, and were one of the first regiments to participate in quelling the great draft riots of 1863, during which it is believed that 800 men were killed and wounded. Colonel Fox had detachments of his command, which included the 65th and 74th, mustering in all, about 1,400 men, to garrison the post-office, treasury building, custom house, Atlantic docks Brooklyn, Hotchkiss shell factory, etc.; also one company at Fort Hamilton and Lafayette and one in Jersey City.

After the trouble in New York was over, Colonel Fox was ordered to do duty in Buffalo

similar to that performed by him before, both the state and national government realizing the importance of having an officer on this line who could be depended upon in an emergency. It was at this time a plot was formed by rebels in Canada to attack, shell and burn Buffalo. Under guise of merchandise, bills of lading consigned to a merchant in Chicago, cannon and ammunition were to be shipped in boxes from St. Catharines, Canada, where they were stored, on board a steamer, which, in passing through the Welland canal, was to be seized by rebels going aboard just before the steamer entered Lake Erie; on getting outside the harbor the cannon to be unpacked and limbered up, the steamer to run down the lake (only twenty miles), heave to off Buffalo and demand \$3,000,000, which, if not paid, they would shell and burn Buffalo, or rob its banks. The governor-general of Canada, gaining knowledge of what was contemplated, informed our government, and General Dix, in command of the department, was ordered to Buffalo. Colonel Fox being in command of the post and having men under him well schooled in artillery practice, procured some twelve-pound Napo'leon guns from the arsenal and was soon prepared for any attack that might be made. He also sent a trusted man to disable a lock in the Welland canal, a short distance below St. Catharines. The expected steamer collided with and disabled a lock so that all boats were delayed four or five days, and thus the plot was frustrated. Colonel Fox's agent was on board the steamer and in the pilot house with the wheelman at the time of the collision. They were the only persons who knew how or why the lock was injured.

Meantime the 74th kept recruiting all the time and many of the men, anxious for more active service in the field, joined other commands. The regiment furnished over 300 officers for other regiments during the war, among them Gen. Daniel D. Bidwell of the 49th Volunteers, sixth corps, Gen. W. F. Rogers, 21st Volunteers, and Col. A. R. Root, 94th Volunteers.

At the close of the war Colonel Fox resigned and went into the insurance business, removing to New York in 1883. While establishing a battery at Mount Union, Pa., his foot was permanently disabled by the wheel of a gun carriage passing over it. He became a member of Lafayette Post in 1894 and died January 20, 1896.

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